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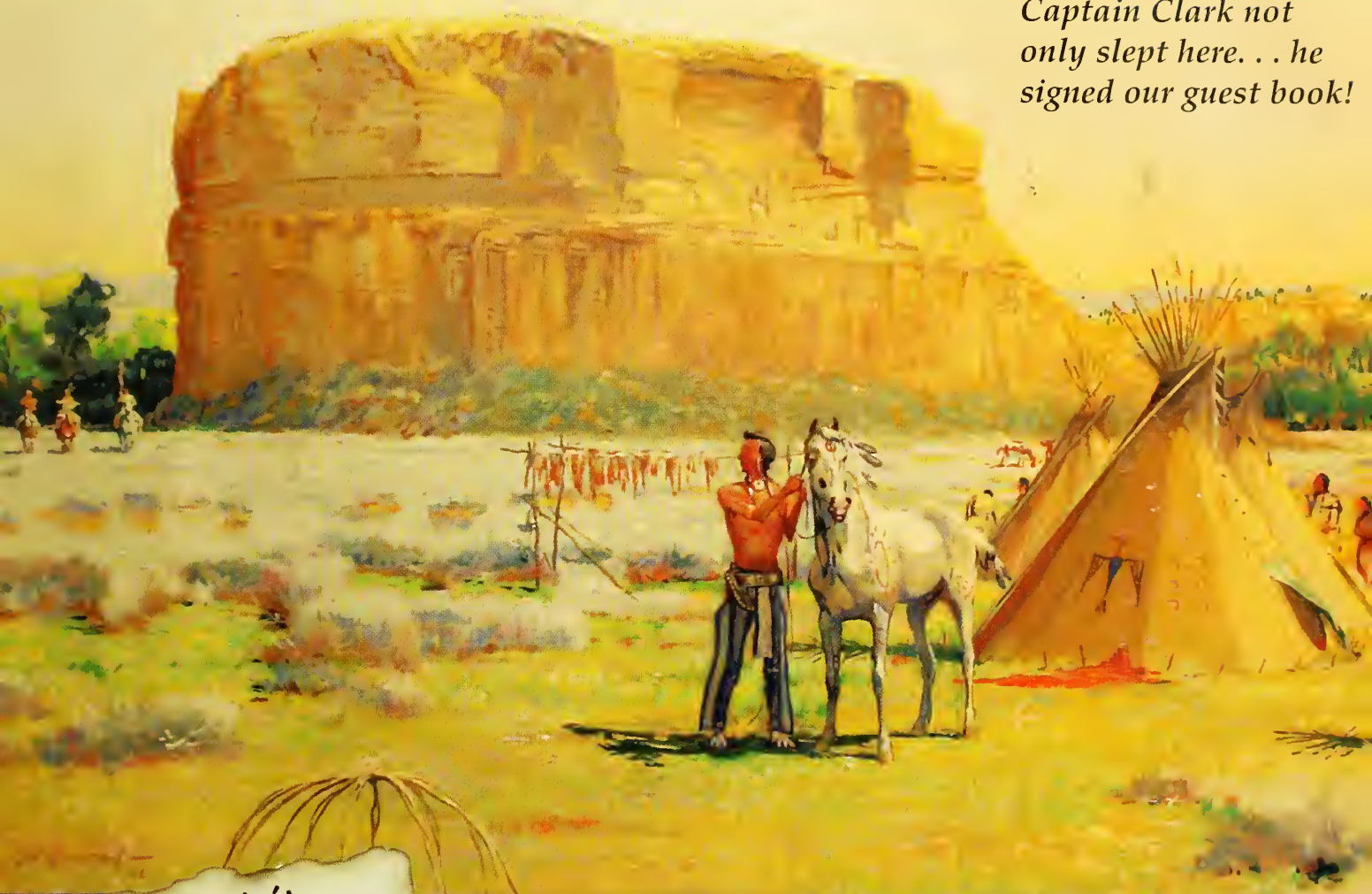
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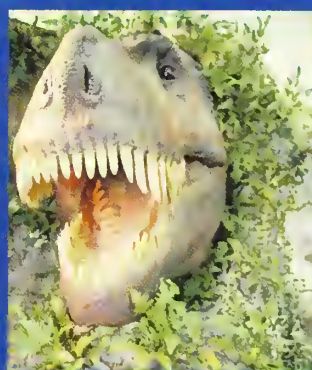
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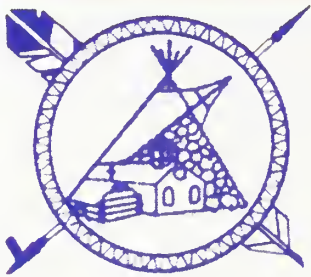


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▲ *This Cheyenne love flute was carved by Grover Wolf Voice.*

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For Details on Hardin, Little Bighorn Days and Reenactment, See pages 71-82

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Custer's Last Stand Reenactment website: www.custerslaststand.org

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- Custer National Cemetery
- Rosebud Battlefield
- Chief Plenty Coups State Park
- Yellowtail Dam
- Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
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Garryowen, Montana
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The Logo for Custer Country, Inc. was designed by Donna Fanyak, Roundup, Montana. The double C's represent the close bond of the 13 counties and two Indian Reservations that make up this special tourism region.

Custer Country Vacation Guide

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On the Cover - Pompeys Pillar, called "Where the Mountain Lion Lies" by the Indians, is the background for this J.K. Ralston painting. The painting is part of the new Pompeys Pillar National Monument J.K. Ralston Gallery. Art courtesy of Bureau of Land Management. Photo technician John Havener. Tyrannosaurus Rex from the Montana dinosaur trail brochure, courtesy of Travel Montana, Custer's Last Stand at Little Bighorn Battlefield, recognizing its 130th anniversary in 2006, courtesy of Custers Last Stand Reenactment Committee. Miles City Bucking Horse Sale, Christian Barthelme photo courtesy of John Riggs.

Custer Country

A Publication of the Custer Country Tourism Region

~The Communities in Custer Country~

Alzada	26	Hardin	71
Ashland	49	Huntley	94
Baker	18	Hysham	86
Billings	100	Ismay (Joe)/Plevna	23
Broadus	24	Lame Deer	46
Broadview	89	Laurel	112
Busby	47	Lavina	88
Colstrip	50	Lodge Grass	53
Crow Agency	53	Miles City	35
Custer	87	Pryor	115
Ekalaka	22	Richey	32
Forsyth	42	Roundup, Ingomar	90
Fort Smith	84	Ryegate	88
Garryowen	60	Terry	33
Glendive	29	Wibaux	12

~Topics of Special Interest~

★How to Use This Guide	3	Lewis and Clark Bicentennial	99
Agates and Geology	45	(Clark's Return Route)	96-98
Agencies, Other Tourism Regions ..	128	National Signature Event	99
Art Centers (Public)	116	Little Bighorn (Custer) Battlefield ..	56-61
Bed & Breakfast	10	Makoshika State Park	29, 118
Bighorn Canyon & River	83-84	Map of Custer Country	4
Bird Watching	120	Map of Montana	64-65
Boating Regulations	127	Medicine Rocks State Park 18, 22, 118	
Calendar of Events	62-63 & 66	Museums	116
Campgrounds	117	National Forest (Custer)	23, 119
Cattle Drives	8, 9, 11, 26, 90	Nez Perce Trail	68-70
Chambers of Commerce	128	Outfitters	123
Cheyenne Nation	46	Paddlefish	28, 126
Crow Nation	53	Pictograph Cave State Park	119
Custer's 'Last Stand' Trail	67	Plenty Coups Park/Museum ...	115, 119
Custer Peace Memorial	61	Pompeys Pillar Nat'l Monument ...	7, 96
Custer's Reenactment	1, 58, 71-82	Ranch/West Vacations	8-11, 26
Dinosaurs	16, 22, 27	Residency Requirements	124
Fish-Game Licenses, Seasons ..	28, 126	Rosebud Battlefield	47, 118
Fishing	28, 83-85, 126-127	Snowmobiling, X-Country Skiing ..	85
Gambling	41	State Parks	118-119
Golf Courses	15	Tongue River Reservoir	119
Historic Trails Map	70	Wagon Trains	8-11, 26, 90
Hunting	122	Wildlife Viewing	120
Indian Memorial	56-57	Waterfowl, Upland Game Birds ..	124
Indian Trail to 'Last Stand'	67	Wild Horse Range	121



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Jim Schaefer Custer Country Photo

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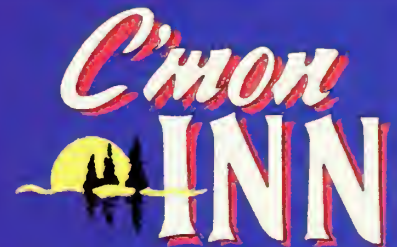
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Custer Country, Montana's beautiful southeastern tourism region, contains many sites visited by the Corps of Discovery. In commemoration of the Bicentennial events of the Lewis and Clark Journey, this year's edition of the Custer Country Vacation Guide features this map as the facepiece of each article about communities in our tourism region. The location of each community is highlighted on the Lewis & Clark Trail map.

Enjoy your journey along the Lewis & Clark Trail and through Custer Country. Let your adventure begin!

Jim Schaefer Custer Country Photo



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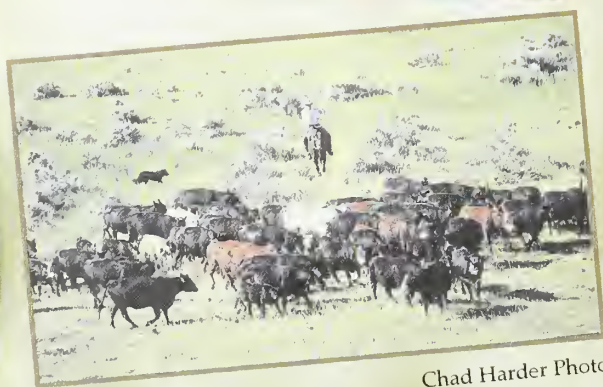
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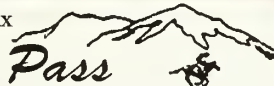
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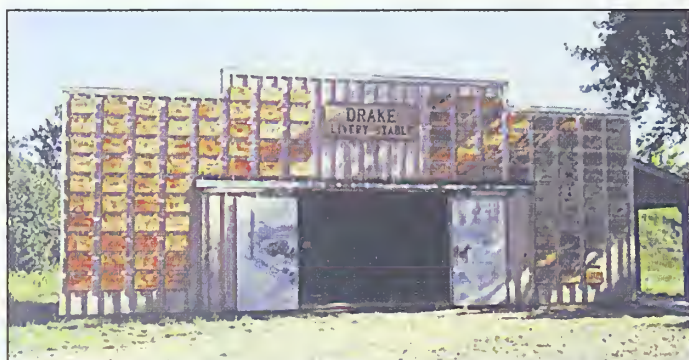
A unique part of the Pierre Wibaux Museum Complex is the Montana Centennial train car which was a part of the Freedom Train and later purchased by the State of Montana to take along with 27 other cars to the World's Fair in New York City in 1964. This car was left at the World's Fair in New York for 2 years along with 4 other cars. After that, the cars were brought back to Montana and placed in five different towns as Visitor Information Centers. This car was an information center for 25 years. It now holds a very interesting collection of history of our community and it is the only survivor of the five cars originally used for visitor centers.

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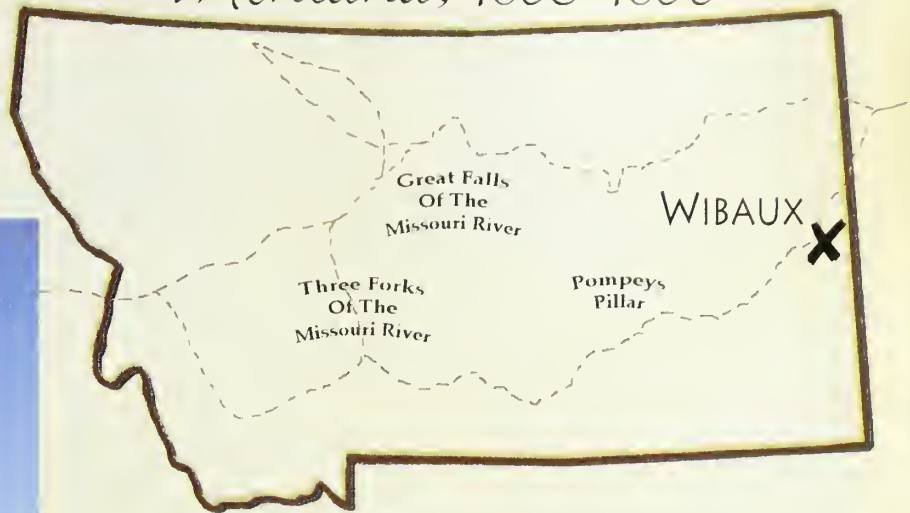
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Pierre Wibaux's statue overlooks the land he loved.



The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



St. Peter's Catholic Church, faced with lava rock, is 108 years old.
John Brewer Photo

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Other badlands ranchers and contemporary acquaintances of Pierre Wibaux included Teddy Roosevelt, the future President of the United States, the Marquis de Mores, who undertook a grandiose, though doomed, plan to process beef in western Dakota. Nearby, Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the town of Medora, ND (just 30 miles from Wibaux) stand today as reminders of the roles these men played in the history of this area.

Welcome to Montana

State Information Center: From the east, take I-94 exit 242, from the west, I-94 exit 241. The visitor information center and rest area offers free maps and travel brochures. The friendly, Superhost-trained staff can answer your questions about what there is to do and see all across Montana. They have wireless internet and can go online for you to check out road conditions, accommodations and other concerns. The center is staffed May 1 to Sept. 30. Maps and brochures are available on the site year-round.

Museum: The Pierre Wibaux Historical Complex is one block east of Highway 7 on Orgain Avenue. Pierre Wibaux's in-town office and sleeping quarters are restored to original condition.

The museum also includes flower gardens, an old-fashioned barbershop, a livery stable, a railroad caboose and railroad car, all containing displays and artifacts from Wibaux's past. The railroad car was once part of the Montana Territorial Centennial

Wibaux (pronounced wee-bo) is the Interstate 94 "Gateway to Montana." This community has a State Visitor Center stocked with racks of helpful information to help you complete your plans for a wonderful vacation all across Montana.

The friendly staff can also direct you to Wibaux's own special attractions. It is a western town with a colorful history and a charming commercial historic district - a great place to set the tone for the rest of your trip.

The town and county were named for Pierre Wibaux, a Frenchman who rejected a career in his family's textile industry to seek adventure and fortune as a cattle rancher in the badlands of western North Dakota and eastern Montana. Headquartering about 12 miles north of the present-day town of Wibaux, he built up a herd that at one time numbered 40,000 head of cattle. His success, for a time, made the town of Wibaux one of the largest cattle

Train, which traveled cross-country, stopping in various cities along the way, to become Montana's exhibit at the World's Fair in New York City in 1964. Free tours of the museum are conducted from May 15 to Sept. 30.

Walking Tour: Walking history tour brochures are available at the museum or the visitor information center.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Wibaux's Historic Commercial District is still the heart of the town. It echoes a past when cowboys shot at the feet of greenhorns getting off the train, ranchers loaded up wagon loads of supplies from the Orgain Mercantile, homesteaders sought out the land office to file their claims, and Louie Fong's restaurant was the best place to fill an empty stomach. The walking history brochure explains the town's past, building by building.

Rock-covered Church: Covered with picturesque lava rock, St. Peter's Catholic Church is on Orgain Avenue, three blocks west of Highway 7. A stained glass window at the rear of the church reveals that it was built in 1895 through the generosity of the Wibaux family. The historic church is used only for catechism classes today. Services are held at the newer, larger church south of the original.

Pierre Wibaux Statue: Pierre Wibaux's will provided for a monumental statue in his likeness. It stands eight blocks west of Highway 7 on Orgain Avenue. From the west edge of town, the statue faces the direction of his main ranch, known as the W-Bar.

Pioneer Memorial: A memorial cross and monument were erected by the John Dobrowski family in memory of their family and the early settlers who established Wibaux. The memorial is located near Interstate 94 on the east edge of town. The public is invited to stop, rest, and visit the memorial.

Accommodations and Arts: Wibaux has two motels, one overnight camping court, a ranch bed and breakfast south of town, popular dining facilities, and a variety of businesses with services and products to meet the traveler's needs. The community has five churches with Sunday services.

Outdoors Under the Big Sky

Parks and Recreation: A public outdoor swimming pool, with shade trees and playground equipment adjacent to it, is located on West Nolan Avenue.

Visitors are welcome afternoons and evenings throughout the summer.

The VFW Memorial Park near the Pierre Wibaux statue features a veteran's memorial.

The Wibaux City Park on the main thoroughfare has shade

trees, picnic tables, and playground equipment, a horseshoe court, a basketball court, bathrooms and flower gardens. Picnic tables are also available at a park across from the Wibaux County Nursing Home at the south end of town.

Hunting, Fishing, Wildlife

It looks like just a small stream, but Beaver Creek, which flows through Wibaux, has produced some big fish, including walleye and northern pike in excess of 10 pounds. Catfish and bullheads also can be caught in the creek, while panfish and trout are found in many area farm ponds. A public pond with picnic area is located on the edge of the city limits on Highway 7 South, across from the fairgrounds.

A blend of badlands and rolling hills offers fine opportunities for photography or hunting trophy mule deer, whitetail deer and antelope. Upland game birds also are plentiful in some parts of the county. Deer, wild turkeys, beaver, and a wide variety of songbirds are frequently spotted - sometimes right in town!

County Fairgrounds: The Wibaux County Fair is held each year the fourth weekend in August at the fairgrounds 1 mile south of Wibaux. Featured events include livestock and exhibit judging, a night show, and a rodeo. Youth rodeos, team ropings,



Pierre Wibaux's former town house is the heart of Wibaux's museum complex. Donnie Sexton Travel Montana Photo

and horse shows also are held at various times most summers.

A Special Invitation: Wibaux residents welcome visitors to take part in events throughout the year. Horse shows and youth rodeos are scheduled at various times during the summer. The community also plays host to basketball tournaments, horseshoe tournaments, pinocle tournaments, children's play days, open air dances and special events related to holidays. To check on the schedule, stop by the visitor information center or call the Wibaux Chamber of Commerce secretary at (406) 796-2412.

Events in Wibaux in 2006

Aug.: Wibaux County Fair: Parade, Horse Judging, Exhibits, Night Show, Livestock Judging, NRA Rodeo ..25-27

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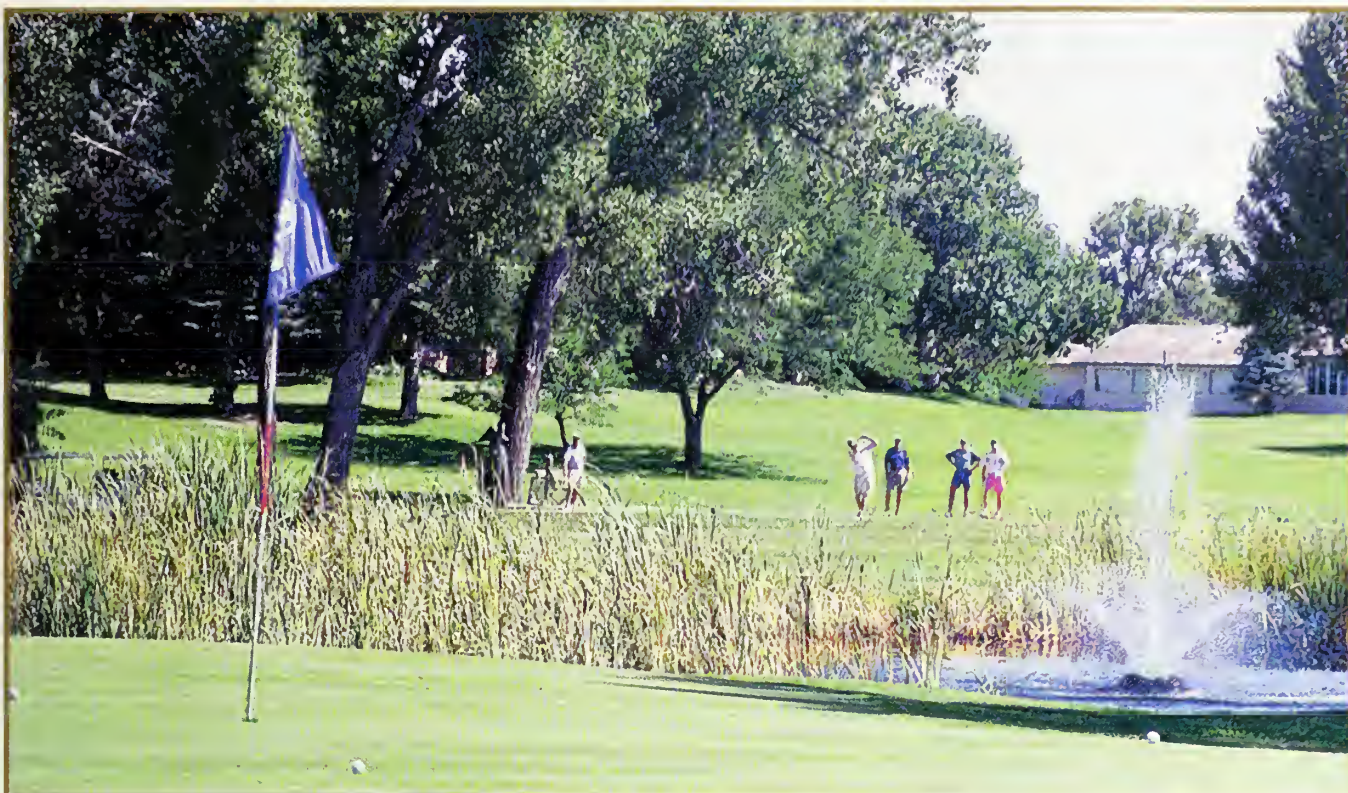
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1. Baker Lakeview Country Club, 9 holes; club & cart rental; driving range; pro shop; putting green; some fast food snacks, beverage & cocktail service. 10% off green fees with this ad. South of Baker on Airport Road. No tee times needed during the week. (406) 778-3166

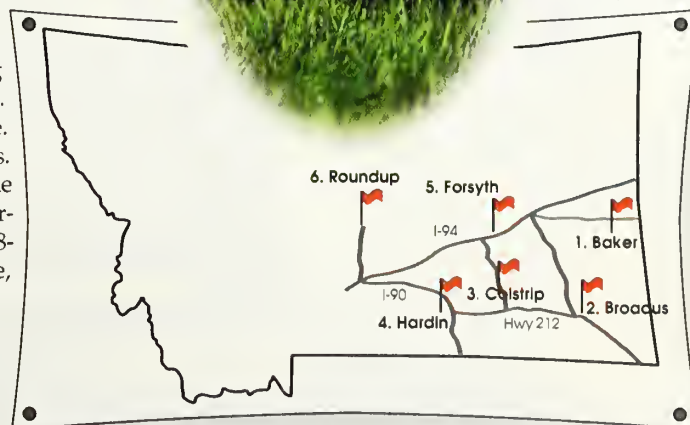
2. Broadus Rolling Hills Golf Course, 3 miles west of Broadus at the T. 9 holes; pro shop; driving range; putting green; food and beverage service; cart and club rental; no tee-time needed during the week. (406) 436-2609

3. Colstrip The Ponderosa Butte Public Golf Course, 1 Long Drive, Club House and PGA Pro. Very challenging 9 hole course. Excellent practice facilities. Located across the street from the high school. Food & beverage services. Rentals available. (406) 748-2700 Pro Shop, food/beverage, (406) 748-2727. PGA Pro on Staff.

4. Hardin Fort Custer Golf Course, 3.5 miles north of Hardin; 9 holes; pro shop; cart rental; food & beverage services. (406) 665-2597

5. Forsyth Forsyth Country Club and Golf Course, 3 miles west of Forsyth on Frontage Road off I-94 Exit 93; 9 holes; club and cart rentals; driving range; pro shop; dining and cocktails. (406) 356-7710

6. Roundup Pine Ridge Golf Course, 9 holes; club and cart rental; driving range; pro shop; food and beverage service. Senior rates during the week. North of Roundup. (406) 323-2880



Enter to win The Lewis & Clark "Slice of the Trail" Golf Awards. Pick up a brochure at golf courses, chambers and visitor centers. Call 406-234-2890 for more information.



A Tyrannosaurus Rex is part of the dinosaur display at Makoshika Dinosaur Museum in Glendive, Montana.
Travel Montana Donnie Sexton Photo

They Roamed These Lands Long Before Custer

Ocean front property in Custer Country? Sure, if you lived here 200 million years ago! Most of Montana was once a vast inland ocean, where creatures like the Apatosaurus, the Brontosaurus, and other prehistoric giants came to live out their lives. As the ocean disappeared, the places where the dinosaurs died were covered with silt, rock and sand, which led to the preservation of their bones, just waiting for discovery by scientists today.

Because of this long-ago ocean, Montana is today one of the world's premier locations for studying the existence of these prehistoric beasts. Important discoveries are made every year by scientists and trained amateurs who sometimes spend years trying to unearth the fossilized remains of long-extinct species. Some of the most exciting and important finds in the field of paleontology have been made in Montana, and many of them right in Custer Country.

Follow the Montana Dinosaur Trail, which links 14 facilities in central and eastern Montana by using the new Dinosaur Trail brochure in print or online (mtdinotrail.org). It is a trail you can follow to see not only the

wide variety of fossils and skeletons of these creatures, but also the rugged landscape their remains are found in today. In addition, you might even be lucky enough to participate in a dig at one of the locations along the trail. (Since there are strict rules about the excavation, removal and handling of fossils, it is recommended that you seek out expert supervision.)

Three of the developed attractions along the trail are in Custer Country. The first is at the Carter County Museum in Ekalaka, Montana's first county museum. It is home to a full-size Anatotitan-Copei skeleton, the largest of the duck-billed dinosaurs, and one of only three such complete specimens in the world.

The other two stops are in Glendive, Montana. Makoshika (ma-ko' she ka) State Park is a great place to learn where and how dinosaurs lived during the last centuries of their existence on Earth. The Visitors Center in the park houses exhibits and information about that long-ago period of time.

In downtown

Glendive, you can visit the new Makoshika Dinosaur Museum, which houses fossils from the Hell Creek Formation and from around the world.

From Custer Country, you can continue up to the Fort Peck Interpretive Center, a newly-constructed attraction where you can not only learn about dinosaurs, but also about the animal and marine life that followed them.

The trail continues westward through central Montana and includes visits to the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, the Phillips County Museum in Malta, and many other places.

So, come join us in Custer Country to begin your journey of a lifetime on the Montana Dinosaur Trail.

See more on dinosaur excavations on page 27.

THE MONTANA DINOSAUR TRAIL



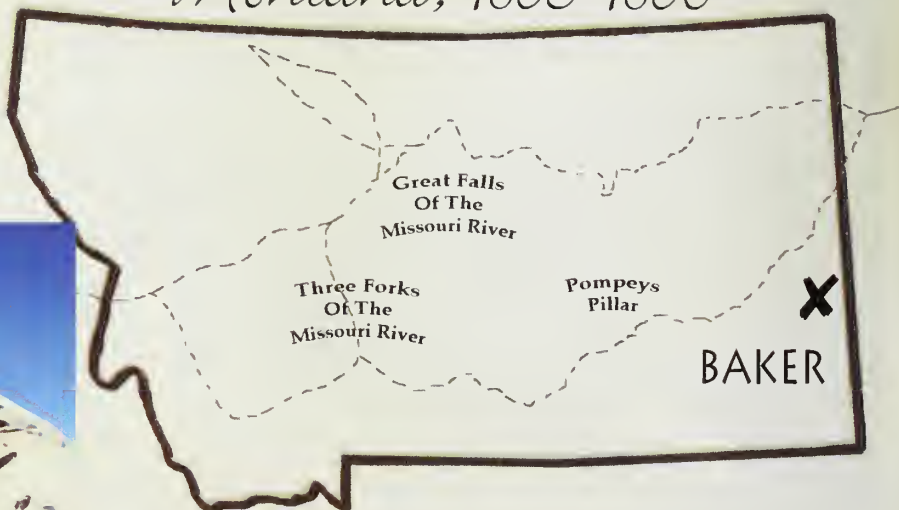




The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Medicine Rocks State Park



Find Eastern Montana 'Treasures' in Baker

Tired as a drover? Ready to ride? Somewhere in between? Whatever your energy level, you can enjoy some of Eastern Montana's finest treasures in Baker! Leave 1-94 at Wibaux and go south on Highway 7 to Baker, Montana's eastern gateway on Highway 12. Or head straight east from Miles City on Highway 12. Traveling by air, you can fly into Baker's modern airport, equipped to handle most aircraft.

Baker, The "Friendly City" by the lake, was chosen as the end of the "Last Big Cattle Drive of the Century" when drovers of nearly a thousand cattle celebrated the end of the trail events in September 1999.

Activities abound here. Outdoor recreational facilities for golf, tennis, softball, basketball, volleyball, horseshoes, swimming, and boating are within walking distance of each other. Trap shooting and target shooting facilities are available just west of Baker for tournaments or to use on your own.

Fresh Air Recreation

Baker Lake: Picnic in one of the many beautiful parks or beside the lake and swim, boat or water-ski for a fun-filled day. Fishermen will have a fish story to take home after casting lines for pike, crappie, walleye, and perch in Baker Lake or one of the nearby reservoirs. Sandstone Reservoir to the southwest of Baker is renowned as a great fishing spot.

An amphitheater is the center of Baker's

Millennium Project. It is used for movies, plays, and other community entertainment. The public is invited to play on the 3-on-3 basketball court. And a paved walkway all the way around the lake offers a stroll with a view. Future plans for this complex include a skate park.

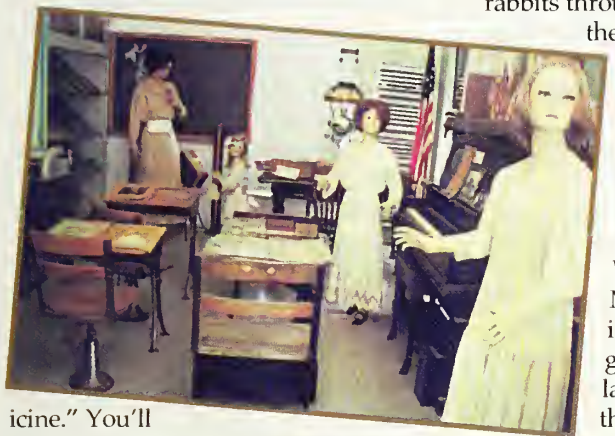
Free Camping: RV parking and camping are free at overnight facilities. Free sewage disposal is available at the RV park. Tent for the night at Steve McClain Memorial Park, which has picnic tables, barbecues, and bathroom facilities. Excellent motel accommodations are available at reasonable rates, and restaurants please both palate and pocketbook.

Scenic Drives: Many artists have put the surrounding landscapes on canvas in paintings and sketches. Blue skies filled with mile-deep, pillowy clouds over sandstone cliffs and golden fields form the backdrop for pictures. Oil wells add to the settings. The range is home to a wide variety of both domestic and wild animals. West of Baker, bighorn sheep may be spotted in the rugged red hills between Baker and Miles City on Highway 12. Watch for the zebras and llamas near Ismay. These non-native animals often graze near the highway.

Land Time Forgot: Twenty-five miles south of Baker on MT Hwy 7 is Medicine Rocks State Park. The park is named for its significance to Native Americans and the area's "good med-



Wheat Farming, Jim Schaefer Photo
O'Fallon Museum, John Brewer Photo



icine." You'll understand why dinosaur bones have been unearthed near Baker when you see the honeycombed sandstone rock

formations, carved by time, water, and wind. The FWP campground at the park is open year-round and offers picnic facilities, bathrooms and water, and camping for trailers up to 20 feet. (406) 232-0900.

Hunting: Hunters often go home with huge trophies from the healthy, carefully managed wild game population in the Fallon County habitat. You can hunt deer, antelope, pheasants, wild turkeys, or rabbits throughout the area. Many of the farmers and ranchers are glad to give permission when you ask. (Please be sure to ask!) You will often get tips for an even more successful hunt. Many landowners around Baker participate in the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Block Management Program that is designed to help hunters gain access to good hunting lands. The hunting section of this guide explains the program in more detail. See page 122.

Winter Sports: Snow and cold weath-

er transform the "Friendly City" into a center for activities such as skating on the lighted outdoor rink, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. Fish the lake or area reservoirs for some great winter catches. Auger a hole in the ice and drop in a line. Many local folks are willing to share their "secrets" about how to land the big one.

A Walk-in History Book

O'Fallon Museum: Let your imagination take you away to days gone by. Imagine how the Indians lived, or what hardships the first explorers, trappers, soldiers, or settlers must have faced. The ever-expanding O'Fallon Historical Museum is a five-building complex. The main building was originally the county jail, a registered National Historic Building. Two homestead houses display historically authentic furnishings. Another building contains homestead-era items grouped and displayed as old businesses. Check the price of the stamps at the post office, the instruments in the doctor's office, items and their prices on the grocery shelves, the dairy equipment, and the mustache cups in the barbershop. Dinosaur bones and saddle displays tell other stories. Antique cars, Baker's first fire truck, a variety of tractors, and an 1896 Avery Yellow Fellow wooden threshing machine are featured in the newest

Welcome to Baker, Montana

Gateway To Big Sky Country!
On Highway 12, The Yellowstone Trail

I-94 Exit 242 • Travel Hwy. 7 to Baker & Ekalaka

2006 Schedule of Events

Vigilante Theater - **April 29**
Car & Tractor Show &
Touch-a-Truck - **June 3**
Cedar Creek Anticline
Oil & Gas Day - **July 14**

Fallon County Fair - **August 17-20**
Calcutta - **October 7**
Moonlight Madness & Customer
Appreciation - **October 11**
Christmas Stroll - **December 6**

Enjoy your stay and come back soon!

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A window to the world through a window from the past attracts people of all ages to Medicine Rocks State Park.
MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks Photo

building of the complex. Admission is free. Donations are welcome.

Volunteers will give you directions to the spot where reservation escapees ambushed a mail carrier near Plevna. They can tell you how to find one of the many tepee rings in the area, or someone may point out the wagon ruts left by some of the original wagon trains that came through Montana.

Indoor Recreation

Recreation Center: In the heart of Baker is a fine indoor recreation facility. You can swim in or relax beside the

indoor heated pool, play racquetball, handball, or wallyball, or use the weight room at the Baker Recreation Center, adjacent to the high school. It's open year-round with hours for public use.

Complete Hospitality

Warm Welcome: Look for a warm welcome from the folks in the "Friendly City." Your interest in sports or fossil hunting can involve you in a friendly conversation. Join in a game of cards at the Senior Citizen's Center which welcomes visitors on Highway 12 near the

west end of town. The folks will make you feel at home and are a good source of information.

Accommodations: Baker has a fine selection of lodging, dining, meeting facilities, and shopping. Stop for a chat and that rare commodity called "home-town service." All the services a traveler could need, including the Fallon Medical Complex, are available in this eastern Montana border town.

The Main Events!

Fourth of July: A fireworks display tops off a day of celebration on our nation's Independence Day. Events may include a beach volleyball tournament, watermelon or pie-eating contests, canoe or sack races, horseshoe pitching, and jet-ski racing. The gazebo area at the lake is the center of activity.

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Shakespeare in the Park at Baker, Montana. Jim Schaefer Photo

County Fair: August 17-20, 2006, is the date for the Fallon County Fair. FFA and 4-H open class exhibits and competitions add to a carnival atmosphere. Professional rodeo and local ranch rodeo events are coupled with big entertainment night shows. Sample the great food at the fair served by local civic groups.

Golf Tournaments: Lakeview Country Club welcomes traveling golfers. See page 15 in this guide for course details. You may want to enter a tournament!

Shakespeare Visits Here: Montana State University brings Shakespeare performances to Baker in July.

Fourth Annual Car Show: Rev up for fun June 3.

2006 Events in Baker

Feb.: Town & Country Day	2
April: Vigilante Theater.....	29
June: Car and Tractor Show/ Touch a Truck	3
July: Fireworks.....	4
Fallon County Days	4
Cedar Cr. Anticline Oil & Gas Day	14
Aug.: Fallon County Fair.....	17-20
Sept.: Medicine Rocks Black Powder Shoot.....	9-10
Oct.: Calcutta.....	7
Customer Appreciation Day.....	11
Dec.: Christmas Stroll.....	6



To wildlife watchers, these mule deer bucks are the "Magnificent Seven."
Alice Straub-Parker Photo

Come to the.....

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The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Carter County Museum Photo

Roam Dinosaur Land

Ekalaka is a small western town nestled in the Russell Creek Valley of picturesque Carter County.

It is named in honor of Ijkalaka, daughter of Eagle Man, an Oglala Sioux and the wife of David H. Russell, the first white settler in the valley.

Ekalaka is the county seat of Carter County, population 450. Though small, the community meets the needs of the traveler with two motels, a campground with hook-ups, several restaurants, a grocery store, service station, and a collection of main street businesses and two city parks.

Noted for its wide-open spaces, beautiful blue skies, and tranquil scenery of open prairies spreading upward to stately forests, Ekalaka's setting is a living painting.

There's lots of room, lots of time, lots of space, and leisurely meals among friendly people. Entertainment comes in measures of peace and quiet.

Kids vs. Broncs

Sponsored by Ekalaka American Legion Post #60, the annual Youth Rodeo in July draws over 200 young rodeo contestants from five states.

Broncs, Quilts and Art

The Carter County "Days of '85" (1885) Fair and Rodeo each August is highlighted by horse shows, rodeos, fair exhibits, and a Sunday parade. Volunteer firemen host a Friday evening barbecue followed by lively entertainment, sponsored by local EMTs. Saturday evening spotlights an old fashioned street dance with various live bands.

The annual Carter County Quilt Show, sponsored by the Carter County Museum and held during the "Days of '85," features both handmade and machine-made

quilts from around the tri-state area — MT, ND, SD.

The Artists of the Prairie also host an annual art show featuring over 100 works of prominent local and non-resident artists and photographers.

The weekend is wrapped in good old-fashioned fun. The only glitz is in the western skies above it.

Keep Yer Powder Dry

The annual Medicine Rocks Black Powder Rifle Shoot, held in early September, is a trip back in history. Black powder enthusiasts gather in period dress of the 1840s-90s, to compete for prizes in both the novice and master categories with muzzle-loader and lever action rifles of the pioneer period. It's a popular event that grows every year.

Round Robin Roping, sponsored by the Puptown Team Ropers in early September, brings top ropers to town each year from several states. The roping event and calcutta are great sport for fans and contestants alike.

Medicine Rocks State Park

An almost-unbelievable site that provides free year-round camping, picnic tables, and outdoor restrooms is 12 miles north on Hwy. 7. Free admission. Campers maintain the site with the pack in, pack out policy.

Roam Dinosaur Land

The first county museum founded in Montana, the Carter County Museum, is the home of the Duck Billed Dinosaur, one of three known skeletons of its kind in the world (see photo). The collection includes a complete triceratops head and dome dinosaur head. Indian artifacts dating to the Stone Age, as well as late 1800s ranch and homestead artifacts (including an 1882 pioneer cabin) are on exhibit.

On Montana's Dinosaur Trail

Ekalaka's Carter County Museum is among 13 dinosaur adventure and education sites featured on a

new brochure that puts you on an exciting dinosaur trail. Turn to page 16 of this vacation guide to see an overview of the trail and of the facilities that are waiting to tell you their stories.

Trails End Ranch

Nestled in the pines, this camp is an interdenominational fundamental Bible camp for youth third-grade and up. The camp offers activities which include hiking, mountain biking, horseback trail rides, crafts, rappelling, rodeo, drama, basketball, and much more in a 1-8 adult to youth ratio. Sessions start the third week in June and run through the second week in August. Many special weekends and workshops are also offered throughout the year. (406) 775-6401.

Camp Needmore

Located 7 miles south of Ekalaka on National Forest land, this camp offers summer facilities for family reunions, receptions and camping with hookups. A refurbished CCC camp set in the pines, it is a secluded, wonderful place for large groups to gather. For reservations, call Keith Larson at (406) 775-6273. Though closed in winter, the camp offers cross-country skiing and snowmobiling opportunities.

Essential Services

Fly In: The airport, located just south-east of Ekalaka, offers aerial travelers a 3,500 ft. lighted, paved runway, tie-downs and hangars.

Medical: The Dahl Memorial Medical Facility (Clinic, Hospital, Pharmacy, and Nursing Home) provides medical and pharmaceutical services to residents and guests to the community.

Ekalaka Park: This is a beautiful, quiet setting in a pine canyon 10 miles south of town, Hwy 323 3 miles, country road 1 mile, 5 miles on Forest Service Road 813. Picnic tables, stoves, free firewood, camping spaces, and outdoor bathrooms, May 1 to Nov. 15. No fee, pack in and pack out policy.

McNab Pond: A trout-fishing pond is the centerpiece of this small campground in the pines 8 miles south of Ekalaka off Hwy. 323. Free admission, May 1 to Nov. 15, outdoor toilets, pack in and pack out policy.

Heading South

Take Hwy. 323 over 25 miles of paved highway, followed by 37 miles of gravel, 10 miles of new pavement, and you'll get to Alzada. After that, continue your trip south on Hwy. 212 to Hulett, WY, and beyond, and you will arrive at Devils Tower National Monument. Hwy 212 also goes west.

Lantis Spring is a Forest Service campground 3 miles west of Camp Crook, SD on Hwy 20 southeast of Ekalaka. It accommodates trailers up to 16 feet, has restrooms, drinking water. No fee, pack in and pack out policy, May 1 to Nov. 15.

Heading West

Hammond, Boyes: From Alzada on U.S. Highway 212, travelers reach the communities of Hammond and Boyes on a 25 mile gravel road.

Heading North

Baker is 36 miles north on Hwy 7.

Livestock and Wildlife

Though sheep and cattle production are the primary industries of Carter County, the area produces mule deer, whitetail deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, turkey, grouse, sage hens, pheasants, trout, bass and bluegill. Wildlife abundance in Carter County has long enticed sportsmen to this corner of the state.

Wildlife Habitat

Custer National Forest: Chalk Buttes, Long Pines, and Ekalaka Hills near Ekalaka, are Custer National Forest lands that provide excellent hunting. The Long Pines is noted for the Capital Rock National Natural Landmark. This area also is known for having a very high density of nesting raptors. For information about this section of Custer National Forest call the Billings administrative office (406) 657-6200.

2006 in Carter County

June: Bump n' Run Competition....TBA
July: American Legion Youth Rodeo.29
August: "Days of '85" 10-13
 Fair, Quilt Show, Art Show.....10-13
 Fireman's Barbecue and EMT Show ..11
 Horse Show 11
 Gospel Sing.....12
 Street Dance 12
 Rodeo.....12-13
 Pancake Breakfast.....13

Interfaith Church Service,

Rodeo Arena.....13
 Parade 13
September: Medicine Rocks Black Powder Shoot.....9-10
 Puptown Round Robin Roping 9-10
November: Appreciation Day and Bazaar 18
 Museum Open House 18

Ismay

From Range Land to Gridiron: In May of 1993, the town of Ismay, MT was contacted by a radio station in Kansas City, MO. The station had a special request for the town to consider — changing the name of the town to Joe, Montana, for the the football season.

The radio station promoters felt that this was a great way to honor their newly-signed Kansas City Chiefs quarterback, Joe Montana, the man. Ismay, population 22, agreed. On July 3, 1993, it was official. Ismay was Joe.

In celebration, the town organized a ranch rodeo, a parade, and a night show for July 3. They drew over 2,000 spectators. They hoped to raise a couple thousand dollars to cover the annual operating costs of the volunteer fire department.

The mayor, who earns \$4 a month for his mayoral duties, proudly reported that by February of 1994, the town had netted nearly \$70,000.

Plevna

Small towns on the prairie have long been one of Montana's greatest crops. Plevna, 13 miles west of Baker on Hwy. 12, is a perfect example to visit. It has one cafe/bar, a post office, and a shaded park with tables and playground equipment. An active senior citizens center welcomes guests. The Fire Hall is the location of an annual Plevna Firemen's pancake supper, October 14 in 2006, which welcomes people from miles around.

Dead Man's Butte, 5 miles north of Plevna, marks the spot where a stage line driver known as Fritz lost his life. The stage line connected Fort Lincoln, near Bismarck, ND, with Fort Keogh near Miles City.

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The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Broadus' Wildlife Museum.
John Brewer Photo

Broadus... Now You're in Montana

Broadus, Montana, is the "Gateway and Crossroads" of Southeastern Montana, located just west of the famous Powder River. The Powder River has been described as "a mile wide and an inch deep, too wet to plow and too thick to drink."
Tour These Collections

Historical Museum: The Powder River Historical Museum in Broadus is an attraction that will interest the whole family, and especially history buffs. Of special interest is the buggy used by Colonel Biddle at least 100 years ago and designed to ford the deeper streams in the area. Among other things, you'll see antique cars and a wonderful collection of pioneer pictures. Housed behind the museum itself is the original county jail, reminiscent of outlaws and rustlers. The jail was used for 60 years before being replaced. There is no charge for enjoying this view of the past.

Mac's Museum: The Historical Museum also houses a fine collection of seashells, minerals, and Indian artifacts. This private collection, known as Mac's Museum, was put together by local pioneer Mac McCurdy. Visitors remark that the shell collection is second to none. The arrowhead collection contains specimens from all states. You'll have fun finding one from your state!

Free Wildlife Museum: Powder River Taxidermy & Co. features a large, unique collection of wildlife mounts.

Business District: Businesses offer Montana hand-crafted gifts, antiques, western clothing and tack, groceries, and hardware. Services include an ATM, veterinary clinic, airport, and emergency medical care.

Recreation, Soft or Tough

Golf: Broadus challenges golfers to enjoy the 9-hole grass greens golf course. It offers a putting green, driving range, rental carts and clubs. Or just view the course from the clubhouse. For tee times call (406) 436-9984.

Park: Take time to stretch your legs and let the kids run. The city park on the edge of town has shade, picnic tables, playground equipment, and lighted tennis courts. A huge divided gazebo provides weather protection for picnics. The town has a swimming pool, bowling alley, and camping facilities complete with RV dump.

Cattle Drive: You'll be able to say, "I did it all!" when you join the Powder River Wagon Train and Cattle Drive, July 24-30, 2005. You will have a horse of your own to ride and care for, or you can join the train by claiming a seat on a wagon. You can stand beside seasoned cowboys and cowgirls and lend a hand pitching camp, bedding down the herd for the night, and getting the wagons rolling in the morning.

You'll learn to trail cattle on a real-life cattle drive. You'll work up an appetite for cowboy coffee, eggs, and hotcakes at the chuck wagon. And nothing beats the thick steaks, baked beans, and hot biscuits served up in the wide-open spaces. Evening campfires are for singing, spinning yarns, and making friends. Ranch vacations are offered as custom packages May through September. Set up your dates: (406) 436-2404, (406) 436-2350, 1-800-492-8835, 1-800-982-0710 or fax (406) 436-2388.

Horses for Sale: The Powder River Quarter Horse Breeders Association will hold a horse sale, halter futurity, and superhorse competition Sept. 2-3 in 2006. Saturday's feature is the senior quarter horse versatility competition and two-year-old performance futurity at 10 a.m. at the multi-purpose barn. The yearling halter futurity, with a \$10,000 added purse for competitors, followed by the performance horse preview, begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. The sale starts at 1 p.m. Call (406) 436-2335.

2006 Events in Broadus

June: Powder River Buffalo Shoot...3-4
 Little Levi Rodeo (to age 12) 17
July: Freedom Run, Parade,
 Ranch Rodeo 4
 Premier Cattle Drive.....23-29
 Todd Harris Softball Memorial ...29-30
Aug.: Bud Williams Team Roping .4-6
 Powder River County Fair 10-12
 Chokecherry Festival.....11-12
 Rodeo 11
 Iron Man Contest 19
Sept.: Horse Sale 2-3
 High School Rodeo 9-10
 Stitch & Chatter Quilt Show 16
Oct.: Stacy Turkey Shoot.....1
Nov.: P.R. Manor Harvest Lunch 7

Dec.: Christmas Stroll, Parade 6
 Roping, Barrel Racing every
 Tuesday and Friday at Broadus
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Softball, golf, baseball. Camping spots are available in Broadus, too.
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Reynolds Battlefield National Monument, where Col. Joseph Reynolds attacked an Indian camp of

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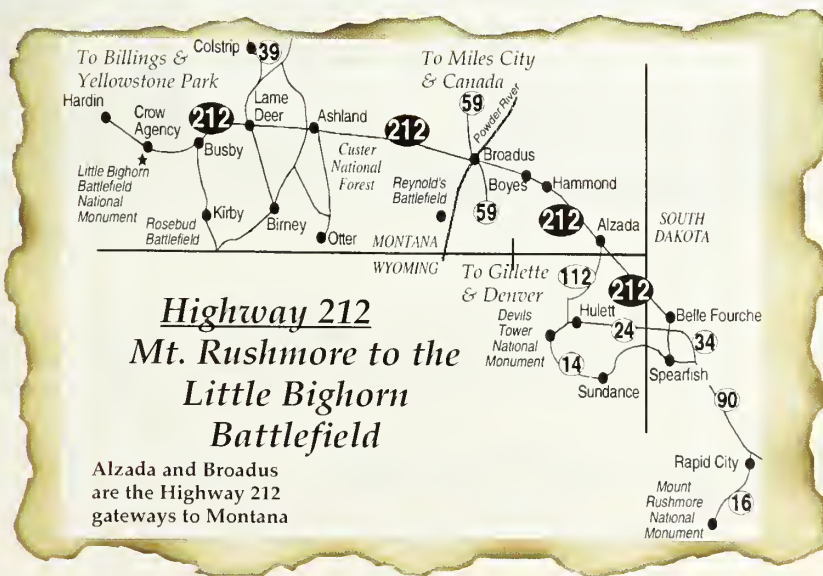
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Oglalas, Miniconjous and Cheyennes at an Indian camp on the Powder River, is 35 miles south of Broadus. The Indians counter-attacked, making Reynolds fall back and Gen. George Crook return to Fort Fetterman. The Reynolds Fight signified to the Indians that the U.S. government was serious about moving them to reservations.

Powderville

Powderville, north of Broadus, was originally known as Elkhorn Crossing of the old Deadwood Stage. Still visible is the route the wagons took in fording the river here.

The Powder River County Historical Society maintains Boot Hill Cemetery, west of the present Powderville Post Office, which was established in 1872.

Alzada
Alzada, settled in the late 1870s by pioneers who wanted to raise cattle, is on the banks of the Little Missouri River in the southeastern corner of Montana.

A telegraph line linked a saloon and

a small general store established in 1877 to the distant world. The town was originally named Stoneville for the 1880 postmaster, Lewis Stone. In 1885 the name was changed to Alzada. It was a stage stop between Deadwood, SD, and Miles City, MT.

In Alzada's early days, the cattle rustler and the horse thief operated at will, much to the hardship and expense of the ranchers. The most notorious and boldest were the Exelby Gang. Beginning their "operations" in 1877, the gang rustled for several years. Eventually, a series of events including rustling, arrests, an attempted rescue, and exchanges of gunfire culminated in the "1884 Shootout at Stoneville" and the breakup of the Exelby Gang.

The Alzada Kids' Rodeo is the last Friday of May.

Otter: Cow Creek Campground is 8 miles west of tiny Otter on Forest Rd. 95. It is open year round with camping for trailers to 32 ft. No fee is charged.



Big Sky Country's sunrise bowhunt.
Powder River Outfitters Photo

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Dinosaurs Roamed in Prehistoric Montana



Dinosaur dig of triceratops. Mike Sullivan Photo

Custer Country is rich in dinosaur finds. Casual visitors and professional paleontologists alike have discovered significant specimens in the region.

During August of 1990, one of the Milwaukee Public Museums' volunteers, Irv Ladish, was taking a break and nearly sat on what looked like, and later proved to be, a triceratops dinosaur's brow tine in the Hell Creek formation near Makoshika State Park in Glendive.

The Milwaukee Museum donated the skull to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The skull is on permanent display in the Makoshika State Park Visitor Center.

Both large and small dinosaurs are important characters in the story of earth's eras. In 1997, Makoshika volunteer host Larry Boychuk took a historic hike. His valuable discovery was a rare 11 foot *Thescelosaurus* (thes-kel-oh-SORE-us) in the badlands park. It is in the family of medium-sized dinosaurs, 6 to 16 feet, that flourished from the Middle Jurassic to Late Cretaceous period. A cast of the specimen will eventually be displayed at Makoshika.

Sixty-five million years after an *Edmontosaurus*, a duck-billed dinosaur, died in a stream west of Hysham, a young 1994 member of the Student Conservation Association, conducting surveys for the Bureau of Land Management, stumbled onto its bones protruding from a sandstone formation. Renowned dinosaur expert Jack Horner and his crew were called in.

While excavating the dinosaur bones, researchers discovered the fossil remains of palm leaves embedded in the same layer of rock as the dinosaur. This was the first time palms and hadrosaurs had been conclusively proven to coexist in this area.

Wrapping up their 2003 paleontology work, Burpee Museum of Natural History, Rockford, IL members gathered some last-minute plant fossils. Near the "Jane" site

they had been working on, they discovered the second of the only two *Nanotyrannus* specimens known to science.

The site, located on BLM land in Carter County in the BLM Miles City Field Office district, has given up a treasure trove of potential information, yielding plant fossils in the immediate context of the dinosaur remains. Such finds are relatively rare, according to Burpee Museum Curator of Earth Sciences Michael Henderson.

Jane and the accompanying plant fossils date back to the late Cretaceous period, 65 to 67 million years ago, the twilight of the age of dinosaurs. According to Henderson, the first *Nanotyrannus* fossil was discovered in Carter County in the 1940's, and until the recent discovery of Jane, was the only specimen known to science. The Burpee Museum maintains a web page devoted to Jane at burpee.org/janegeneral.htm.

Dinosaur enthusiasts, amateur and professional fossil hunters alike, are reminded that a federal permit is required to collect vertebrate (animals with backbones) fossils on public lands. However, invertebrate (animals with no back bones) and plant fossils may be collected as long as they are for personal use and not for barter or sale. A daily limit of 25 pounds and no more than 250 pounds per calendar year applies to petrified wood collecting without a permit. Direct questions to the Miles City BLM office listed on page 128.

Baker and Ekalaka have also recorded important dinosaur finds. An *Anatosaurus* skeleton and numerous other fossils and bones are displayed at the Carter County Museum in Ekalaka.

In 2004, the University of Wisconsin at Madison did several excavations and survey work in Carter County. Fossil specimens included some *Tyrannosaurus rex* material, a hadrosaur and a triceratops.

Prehistoric Gamefish



Paddlefish . . .

Bonny and Dick Milligan of Willow Creek, MT. Dr. Mike Wheeler Photo

Yellowstone Intake Diversion Dam, 17 miles north of Glendive, MT, has become the "Paddlefishing and Caviar Capital." From approximately May 15 through June 30, paddlefish run in the murky, roily waters of the Yellowstone River. To fish, anglers need a regular license and a paddlefish tag and heavy-duty tackle - 6/0 to 10/0 treble hooks, 40-80# test line, a heavy surf rod 8-12 ft., a heavy-duty salt water spinning reel or star-drag reel, and 4-6 oz. weights. Despite their diet of zooplankton,

which are microscopic aquatic organisms, adult paddlefish may weigh from 40-100 pounds and are very good to eat. Tags are \$6.50 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents. The limit is one paddlefish per angler on the Yellowstone River.

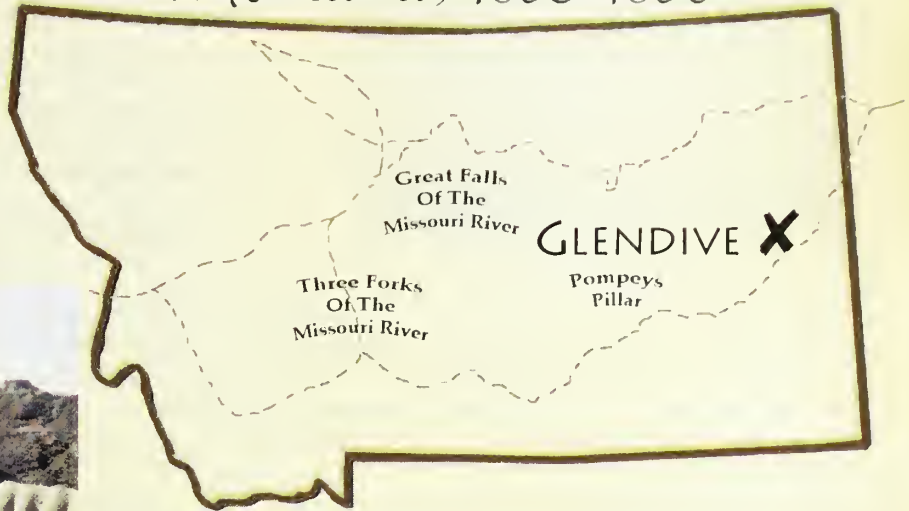
Fisheries biologists' studies from 1973-1992 indicate that only 5 percent of the total paddlefish population is harvested each year.

Paddlefish roe is collected by the Glendive Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, 406-377-5601. The caviar is processed in Glendive and shipped to caviar buyers



where it finds its way to exclusive restaurants and caviar lovers around the world. Proceeds are used for research and improvement of fishing access sites by FWP. Other profits have benefited historical, cultural, and recreational projects in the Custer Country region.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



The badlands of Makoshika State Park
Travel Montana Photo

The City Beside Makoshika Park

Centered between Fargo, ND, and Yellowstone National Park, Glendive and Dawson County offer a wealth of history, including dinosaur digs, Historic District tours, and the Frontier Gateway Museum.

"Where the Best Begins"

Get ready to feel western at the professional rodeo action at the Dawson County Fair each August and Dawson College Rodeo in late September.

Hunters return to Eastern Montana year after year in pursuit of deer and antelope and excellent game birds. Fishermen and women flock to snag paddlefish and to hook their share of walleye, catfish, sauger, northern pike, ling, sturgeon, and the occasional trout, not to mention the rough fish — mainly the goldeye, carp, chub, and bullheads.

Glendive also offers opportunities for golfing, swimming, agate and fossil hunting, boating, hiking, biking, and camping.

Makoshika State Park: Montana's largest state park offers a step back into a time of dinosaurs. The park is located on the outskirts of Glendive and encompasses over 11,500 acres. An interactive visitor center has a triceratops dinosaur skeleton head and frill, found in the area. Other full fos-

silized skeletons, found in recent years, have been excavated and sent to the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana, for study and display. The soft rock strata of the area was carved by time into the wondrous and rugged formations of the badlands.

"Makoshika" is a Lakota name meaning "bad earth" or "bad lands." Makoshika is a special place where visitors can read the evolution of planet earth and its plant and animal life - for nearly 80 million years. Among the carved rock formations are the fossilized remains of plants and animals from the age of reptiles. Visible here is evidence of the first mammals, the great ice age, primitive tribes, and Indian culture.

Makoshika offers developed camp sites for RVs and tents. There are tables and grills and beautiful views. Some day-use and overnight fees are charged.

Paddlefish: Found only in the Missouri River drainages in the United States, and in the Yangtze River in China, the unbelievable prehistoric paddlefish have become the unofficial symbol of Glendive. Snag these non-skeletal fish near Intake, 17 miles north of Glendive. Your catch, good to eat, may weigh up to 100 pounds. The females have quality caviar. A Montana fishing license

and a special tag are needed. Intake has camping spaces, toilets and water, and a boat launch for two-wheel drive vehicles. A \$5 camp fee is charged.

The oldest paddlefish fossils ever recorded were found inside the rib cage of a 65 million year old dinosaur skeleton.

For over 20 years Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has monitored the angler harvest of paddlefish at the Intake Fishing Access Site. Information collected has included average size of males and females, fish age, number of snaggers, angler success rate, number of fish caught and percentage of the adult population caught by snaggers. Results of this work suggest that paddlefish are not being over-harvested and that the numbers of paddlefish seem fairly stable. More recent work has included locating spawning areas and determining success of Yellowstone River paddle fish spawning.

Hooked on Paddlefish: Even nonanglers can get hooked on paddlefish in Glendive this year. DCUA/The Gallery has set up a fund-raiser to help with the new gallery building. Area and regional artists will paint 42-inch paddlefish sculptures. You can see them displayed in businesses throughout the town April 10 until June 9 when they will be "schooled" together at the Visitor Center at Makoshika State Park for a Buzzard Days showing. Auctioned June 10, the paddlefish will go to the highest bidders.

Frontier Gateway Museum: Step through the doors and take a giant step back in time. Wander among dinosaur

fossils, Indian artifacts, farm machinery and blacksmith tools. One of the most popular exhibits is "Merrill West," which is a walkway through a replica of the businesses which lined Glendive's business district in the late 1800s. A restored sheep wagon, a rural school house, a log cabin, a windmill pump, a smithy shop, and a restored 1916 fire truck are displayed.

Historic Bell Street Bridge: Built first in 1894, destroyed by an 1899 ice jam, and rebuilt 1924-26, the Bell Street Bridge is one of the longest of its kind in Montana. It has been preserved for its engineering accomplishment and significant role in the commercial development of the area. An annual September celebration commemorates the local landmark.

Work is in progress to return it to its original glory. New glowing street lamps guide visitors along its path, now a pedestrian walkway.

Walking Tour: A self-guided walking tour of Glendive's Downtown Historic District leads past many buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Guide brochures are available at Glendive Chamber of Commerce, 313 S. Merrill, located in the new community center in the heart of downtown Glendive.

Lewis and Clark Trail: In 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition began from St. Louis, heading up the Missouri River and continuing on to the west coast. Captain William Clark and party stopped at various points along the Yellowstone River to camp, make canoes and record their historic journey. The Lewis and Clark Trail

markers point out the route.

Glendive's Monumental statues in wood illustrate all 13 members of the expedition who explored the Yellowstone River, plus Lewis's dog Seaman.

The Gallery: Works of artists from Glendive and other parts of eastern Montana are on exhibit at the gallery located in the West Plaza shopping mall in West Glendive. Free.

Learn All About It

From kids to senior citizens, people learn through enjoyable experiences and institutions in Glendive.

Glendive Visitors Guide: The local newspaper publishes an annual guide to the area. It is available at visitor information locations in Glendive.

Historic Books: "Our Times, Our Lives," published by the Tree Branches Genealogy Club of Glendive, has a history of Dawson County families and communities. The book contains more than 1,000 pages, including a list of births, marriages, homestead filings, and personal stories of over 1,200 area families. It is \$25 at the Chamber.

Dawson Community College: Serving the educational needs of eastern Montana, Dawson Community College in Glendive is a comprehensive two-year college offering education at all levels and is a focal point in the community for the arts and services.

Elderhostels: Thousands of senior citizens all over the world combine travel with educational experiences by participating in Elderhostels. Each year Dawson Community College sponsors Elderhostels, which feature living in

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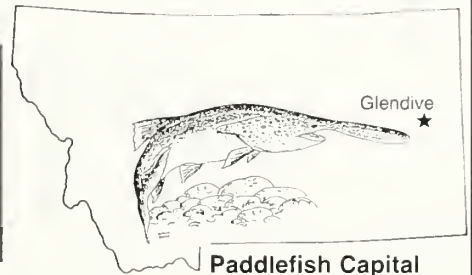
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 Jim Schaefer Custer Country Photo

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college dormitories, listening to lectures, and taking field trips, hikes and going on agate hunting expeditions.

Glendive Public Library: An extensive collection of Montana books, books by Montana authors, local histories, and local newspapers back to 1882 is offered at Glendive's library at 200 S. Kendrick, (406) 377-3633.

Adventures and Relaxation

Dining and Entertainment: Whether the appetite calls for fast food or a full beefsteak dinner, Glendive has it. Casinos flourish and offer poker and keno. Lounges offer dancing and pool tables.

Shopping: From large chain stores to locally owned tiny antique and gift boutiques, shopping is an adventure in Glendive.

Golf: The Cottonwood Country Club is a beautiful and challenging nine-hole course. Take Sidney Highway #16 North, then turn at Highland Park Rd. and watch for golf course signs. Visitors are welcome and are urged to call (406) 365-8797 for tee-times.

Folf: Glendive's two folf (frisbee-golf) courses may add "Folf Capital" to its list of titles. Both courses are located on the edge of the badlands, one inside Makoshika State Park. They offer fairways challenging to both beginners and pros. Directions are available at the chamber office.

Agate Hunts: Choice Montana agates are plentiful, as well as fossil remains of prehistoric creatures and Indian artifacts. Montana moss agates occur in creek bottoms, gravel beds, and along banks of the Yellowstone River running through Glendive. The area is renowned worldwide for the quality and abundance of plume and moss agates found on its shores.

The Chamber of Commerce has a display of exquisite agates and the names of several local agate dealers and retailers. Guided rock hound boat tours are available.

Jaycee West Park: This easy-access park offers tennis courts, picnic area, basketball, horseshoes, restrooms, and an RV dump station. It is a shady picnic area next to the Yellowstone River on Towne Street.

Lloyd Square Park: In the center of the city, this park is an oasis of picnic grounds, heated pool with separate diving and wading areas, tennis courts, horseshoes, basketball, restrooms, and a playground area.

2006 Events in Glendive

Feb: Glendive Agri-Trade Expo (GATE).....10-11
April: Spring Fling.....14-15
May: ABATE Motorcycle Show and Ball.....13
City-wide Garage Sale.....13
Paddlefish Season.....May 15-June 30
June: Hooked on Paddlefish Auction.....10
Annual Buzzard Days at Makoshika State Park.....10-11
Badlands Drifters Car Club Show.....23-24
July: Independence Day Parade and Bump and Run.....4
Aug.: Dawson County Fair/Rodeo.....10-13
Sept.: Bell Street Bridge Day.....11
Oct.: Oktoberfest.....TBA
Nov.: Holiday Light Parade.....24

Richey

Richey, Montana, north of Glendive, lies in the center of a productive farming area. This is cattle and sheep country, with wheat, oats and barley being the main farm crops. A lively, friendly little town, Richey has a variety of businesses to serve the visitor, and a museum where you can check out the history of the area.

The Richey Historical Museum has over 5,000 articles of historic interest, including a Model A mail car, a blacksmith shop, pioneer kitchen, school and church memorabilia, and newspaper files from 1916 to 1948. Special articles of clothing on display are wedding dresses, World War I and II uniforms, and coats made of buffalo hide, horsehide, raccoon, and muskrat. There are washboards and wheelchairs, spinning wheels and musical instruments, and books containing pictures and stories of local pioneers, veterans, and churches.

Events: Fun events in 2006 are the Family Day Vintage Car Run, June 3, and the Annual Richey Rodeo, July 16.

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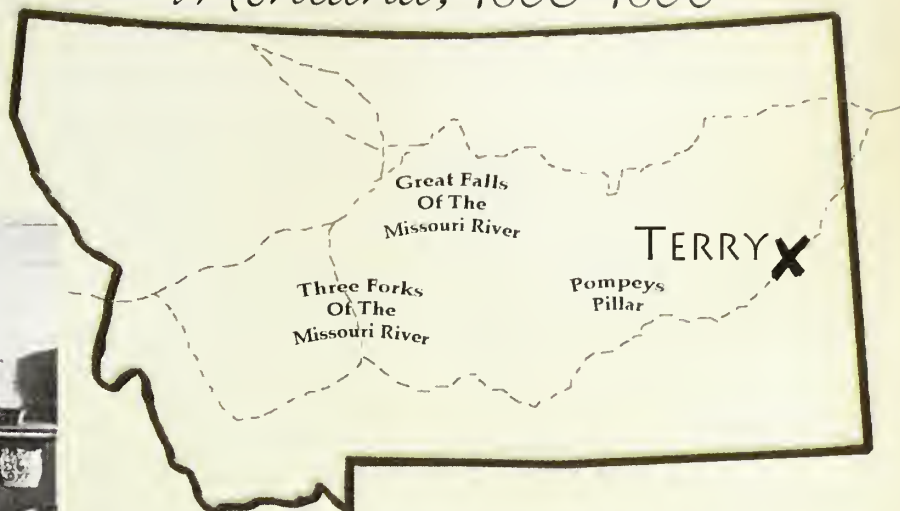
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The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Homestead photo by Lady Cameron



Terry is Rich in Prairie History

Famous historic figures have walked along the Yellowstone River banks of Terry, Montana, including its namesake, General Alfred H. Terry.

Gen. Terry was the commander of the 1876 expedition against the Sioux. Custer was one of the secondary officers, requested by Terry, to serve as a guide, since he had been in the area three years earlier with a survey party.

Captain William Clark and members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition canoed through the Prairie County area July 31, 1806, during the return trip. Clark explored and mapped the Yellowstone, which Native Americans called the Elk River.

After the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876, the steamboat Far West carried the wounded from Captain Reno's command to Fort Lincoln. Private George died enroute and was buried at Powder River Depot. His grave is marked, as is the nearby grave of Scout Brockmeyer, who was killed while trying to retrieve some supplies there later that summer.

The mouth of Cabin Creek is the site of the 1876 surrender of 2,000 Sioux to General Miles down Bad Route Creek. Sitting Bull and 400 in his party escaped to Canada.

World-famous Historic Photographer

An English lady and her naturalist husband moved to Terry in the late 1800s. Lady Evelyn Cameron mail-ordered a glass plate 5x7 Graflex camera to photograph birds to illustrate stories her husband, Ewen, wrote. However, times were tough on the prairie, and she began to help support the

ranch by taking pictures. Among her multitude of photo subjects were freight wagons, people at work, badlands, eagles, coyotes, and wolves. She wrote in diaries about her adventures and her everyday life.

Montana Public Broadcasting System premiered the film on her life, "Evelyn Cameron: Pictures from a Worthy Life," in Terry in August of 2005.

Gallery and Museum: Now large, crisp copies of the photographs that made Evelyn Cameron famous are on display at the Cameron Gallery and Prairie Museum in Terry. The collection is a photographic journal of the early 1900s. The book, "Photographing Montana 1894-1928: The Life and Work of Evelyn Cameron," presents her photos and meticulous diary accounts of the Terry area.

Prairie County Museum is housed in the old State Bank of Terry building, an antique treasure itself, with beautiful marble floors and paneling, fine woodwork and lovely glass. The museum has grown to include four more buildings, including the first State Bank, the Cameron Gallery, a caboose, a Northern Pacific Depot, Rosie Roesler's homestead shack, and a steam-heated brick outhouse.

Museum volunteers are ready to help visitors who are in search of historic sites and places of interest. It is open Memorial Day through Labor Day, six days a week (closed Tuesdays). Volunteers are prepared to open the museum at other times if they are called.

River Gems: Terry is nestled against the Yellowstone River in the heart of agate country. People come from all over the United States to hunt along the river, creeks, and nearby hills, to gather

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the translucent rock with the rough skin.

Petrified and agatized wood and colored jaspers are also common stones in this area.

Outdoors: The Yellowstone River at this point is an easy-floating river, with currents at 4.7 mph., ideal for the novice or the pro-floater. Its banks are lined with scenery and wildlife. Enjoy hunting and fishing at their best in Prairie County, which also includes the towns of Fallon and Mildred.

Get permission from landowners to hunt wildlife including deer and antelope, upland game birds, and waterfowl.

Hikers enjoy an unspoiled landscape of wildflowers, native trees and plants, natural rock formations, and small prairie animals. Since the rattlesnake is one of the prairie residents, hikers are given permission with a word of caution.

Take a short drive up the Calypso Trail and Scenic View road northwest of Terry to see the famed badlands.

Hospitality: Terry has an active chamber of commerce. Members take great pride in inviting travelers to stop in. "You will surely enjoy taking the time to stop in Terry, the friendly little town below the badlands."

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Prairie County Chamber of Commerce

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Reenactors bring historic characters to life. Karen Stevenson portrays Lady Evelyn Cameron.
Jim Schaefer Custer Country Photo

2006 Events in Terry

April: PAL Easter Egg Hunt.....	15
May: Museum and Gallery open.....	30
June: Prairie Unique Fun Fly for r/c Model Enthusiasts.....	9-11
All-Town Garage Sale Day	11
Crazy Daze	25
July: Terry Roping Club Amateur Rodeo	July 4
TerrYYippee! Bullarama Fairgrounds, 5 p.m.	29
TerrYYippee! Games, Pinto Bean Bash, Ice Cream Social, Street Dance, Sponsored by Terry Chamber	29
Capt. Clark Anniversary	31
August: Prairie County Fair	17-20
PAL Bump n Run, Fairgrounds	19
Fair Night Show - Parched Prairie Players Production	19
Community Church Service	20
Ranch Rodeo	20
September: Fallon Harvest Festival...	3
October: PAL Pumpkin Alley and Haunted House	31
November: Students' Veterans Day Parade	10
Terrific Turkey Tuesday.....	21
December: Holiday Light Parade and Holiday Promotions.....	5
Holiday Feast	Dec. 12

The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Miles City Bucking Horse Sale. John Riggs Photo

Miles City is the Cowboy Capital of Big Sky Country

Miles City, a legendary western town, is one of the last genuine cowboy towns on the western frontier. Continuing a tradition of rodeos that stretches back into the 19th century, the Bucking Horse Sale is Miles City's biggest event. For more than 50 years, horses have been "bucked out" at the fairgrounds as part of a citywide celebration of the cowboy.

While Miles City is still proud of its colorful Old West history, the community is a thriving, modern town, complete with high-tech amenities.

From Cantonment to Town

Colonel (later General) Nelson A. Miles, in late 1876, was ordered to proceed to the Yellowstone Valley in Montana to establish a cantonment from which he was to conduct a campaign to compel bands of wandering Indians to return to their reservations.

Arriving early in the fall, Miles selected a site at the mouth of the Tongue River.

A year later, when the War Department moved the cantonment to the present site of Fort Keogh, the townspeople also moved, in order to stay as close to the fort as possible. Some buildings in present-day Miles City were originally constructed on the old townsite.

The Northern Pacific Railroad arrived in 1881, helping to shape Miles City and turn it into a major center for shipping livestock — cattle, sheep and

horses. The Montana Stockgrowers' Association was formed in Miles City in 1884.

Western Traditions

Miles City has a historic Main Street, complete with numerous buildings from the late 19th century and early 20th century, many of which are listed on the National Historic Register. These classic buildings include a saloon painstakingly restored to its original, century-old splendor.

From beautiful Riverside Park with its towering trees, Victorian-style gazebo and rolling lawns at the west end of Main, to the magnificent homes on East Main, Miles City has preserved its Main Street.

The nearly 9,000 area residents are friendly and helpful. They enjoy talking about the history, hunting and fishing in the area, and about colorful "characters" who fashioned the town's personality. Its many services have made it the hub of south-eastern Montana, both economically and as the center of vacation-time attractions.

General Nelson A. Miles: The man for whom Miles City is named was a close friend of Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer. Like Custer, he was a Civil War veteran. Uniquely successful as a military commander, Miles never lost a battle he commanded.

His success as a commander, combined with his insistence on humane negotiations and post-captulation treatment of the various Indian tribes, led

Miles to be able to establish and maintain peace, giving him a lasting place in history for his influence on the opening of the West to settlement. He later became the last General-in-Chief for the United States.

Range Riders Museum: With the addition of the Bert Clark Gun Collection, the Range Riders Museum has truly become one of the finest in the Northwest. It includes firearms from the Revolutionary War era and those used by the early settlers and military personnel in the West, along with many other rare and unique firearms.

The museum complex is set on the original site of the Fort Keogh cantonment. It has grown to include the main building, the Clark gun collection building, Fort Keogh officers' quarters, the Heritage Center, the wagon barn, an original log cabin, and a one-room schoolhouse. The newest addition, the Kegel family memorabilia building, includes displays of the medical profession in Miles City.

The items on display at the museum are as diverse as the Montana landscape. It is a "must stop" on the list of anyone interested in western history. The time spent, whether for a quick browse or for an all-day study, will give the visitor a better insight into the hardships and the adverse conditions the early-day settlers faced. The museum is a lasting tribute to these early pioneers.

Custer County Art Center: Miles City's heralded art center, a non-profit institution on the west edge of town, provides quality visual art exhibits



Christian Barthelmess, Lady Evelyn Cameron, R.C. Morrison, and L.A. Huffman are featured at the Range Riders Museum and at the Custer County Art Center in Miles City.

Photo courtesy of John Riggs

and educational programming.

The art center, itself a creative new use of old water tanks from an early water plant, has two large, elegant galleries with changing exhibits throughout the year. Exhibitions include items from the center's permanent collection, local and regional art competitions and traveling national exhibits. CCAC is open year-round, except January. It is open to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, and no admission is charged. The center has a gift shop. See the related ad on page 40, or call (406) 234-0635

CCAC sponsors the Western Art Roundup and a Quick Draw auction in Riverside Park to coincide with the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale in May.

Western Entertainment

Cowtown Beef Breeders Show: The first Friday in February every year, cattlemen and -women showcase their top yearling bulls on Main Street. Equipment displays and a craft show add to the bustling atmosphere.

Bucking Horse Sale: Miles City pays homage to the horse during the third weekend of May at the world famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale, the largest annual event in Miles City. Since 1951, the sale has continued a long tradition of rodeos in Miles City. Rodeo stock buyers from many states and Canada come to Miles City to watch the best of the wild horses buck. The horses are sold at auction, and

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many go on to "careers" in rodeo, appearing nationwide.

Other activities such as western barbecues, ice cream socials, Western Art Quick Draw, pari-mutuel horse racing, street dances, and a western parade down Main Street draw huge crowds. Because of the worldwide popularity of the Bucking Horse Sale, early reservations for accommodations are recommended. Call the Miles City Area Chamber of Commerce at (406) 234-2890 for event information.

Farmers' Market: The open-air market offers farm-fresh produce, arts and crafts and other locally-produced items every Saturday from May through October at Riverside Park. Call (406) 234-5274 for a list of each week's special events.

Fair: The Eastern Montana Fair is a four-day event in August. Attractions include rodeos, demolition derby, commercial exhibits, and a carnival. Many other special activities will be taking place at the August 24-27, 2006,

Eastern Montana Fair. Contact the chamber for a schedule of events.

Lewis and Clark Trail: Captain William Clark and his party camped on Pirogue Island in the Yellowstone River, July 29, 1806, during the return trip of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. His diary entry reads, "Late in the evening, I arrived at the entrance of a River which I take to be

(called by the Indians) the Lazeka or Tongue River. it discharges itself on the Stard. side and is 150 yards wide of water." After commenting that he found the water of the Tongue to be "so Muddy and warm as to render it very disagreeable to drink, I crossed the rochejhone [French for Yellowstone] and encamped on an island close to the Lar shore."



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Pirogue Island State Park is a primitive park with no services or campgrounds and is only open for day use. There is a parking area. The Island can only be reached by crossing the channel by boat or swimming to it. The current can be deceptively strong and only experienced swimmers should attempt the crossing during spring high water.

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Event

Clark made great discoveries, which he recorded in his journals. Visitors will marvel at the discoveries that unfold at the **Clark on the Lower Yellowstone and Corps of Discovery II - 200 Years to the Future** exhibit July 30-August 3, 2006, at the Eastern Montana Fairgrounds.

Speakers, demonstrations, living history activities, items and technology of the 1806 period, activities for children, rides in historic horse drawn wagons, and a grand ball are on the agenda.

Admission is free. Food and souvenir concessions are available. You'll want to attend, since this event comes around only once in 100 years! Contact the Miles City Chamber for detail updates. See page 128.

Outdoors fun

Golf: If you're looking for a little pleasant exercise in an equally pleasant setting, you can't do much better than Miles City's Town and Country Club, located on the southwest corner of town on the east banks of the Tongue River. The nine-hole course combines the aesthetics of relaxing cottonwood-shaded greenery with contours that can be a challenge.

The club is open to the public through greens fees, and its many social functions are often open to the general public as well. Call for a tee time (406) 234-1500.

Swimming: The pause that refreshes on a hot summer day is a dip in Miles City's unique outdoor municipal pool, a "natural oasis," located on West Main. Complete with sandy beach, the

huge swimming lake is perfect for relaxing.

Fishing: There are a multitude of fishing sites to beckon anglers along the Yellowstone and Tongue rivers, many with picnic facilities. A number of reservoirs in the Miles City area also offer fishing.

Hiking and Walking: Region 7 Fish, Wildlife and Parks offers a brochure



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Custer County Art Center Gallery Photo

for a self-guided tour through wildlife areas. Historic District self-guided tour brochures are also available from the chamber office.

More fun: Additional recreational and leisure time facilities include tennis courts, a bowling alley, fitness center with racquetball courts at Miles Community College, and a classic single screen movie theater on Main Street.

Accommodations: Miles City has 20 restaurants, including supper clubs, sit-down family restaurants and fast-food facilities. The eating establishments are conveniently located in three areas: downtown, Haynes Avenue and Valley Drive East.

Overnight lodging is available in the

same areas. There are 10 hotels/motels with a total of 550 units, plus campground facilities on each end of town.

Fishing Access Information: Miles City Chamber of Commerce is at 511 Pleasant Street, (406) 234-2890 miles-citymt.org. Stop there to pick up the new **Fishing Access Guide**, which maps the fishing accesses along the lower Yellowstone River.



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For calendar of event updates custer.visitmt.com

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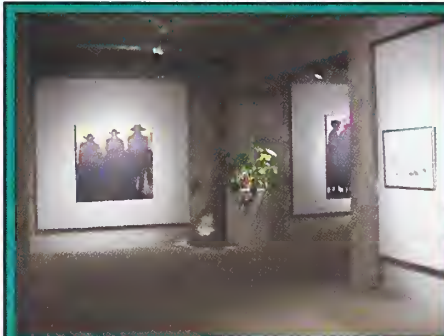
The Lower Yellowstone River offers floating and fishing opportunities. Pick up a fishing access guide at the Miles City Chamber of Commerce. John Riggs Photo

2006 Miles City Events

Feb.: Cowtown Beef Breeders Show ..3
27th Annual SE Montana Juried
Exhibit, CCAHC.....5-19
April: Farmers Market 3, 10, 17, 24
Springfest Auction.....21-22
Western Art Roundup,
CCAHC.....4/30-6/25
May: Farmers' Market, Riverside
Park.....Saturdays thru Oct.
Pari-mutuel Horse Races.....14
Bucking Horse Sale, Horse Races 18-21
Bucking Horse Sale Parade.....20
Western Art Roundup Quick Draw .20

Volksmarch 5/27-9/30
June: Chili Cook-off.....3
Farmers Market 3, 10, 17, 24
Ghost Tours.....10
Pioneer Days.....10-11
Range Riders Open House 11
MT vs. ND Football Game 17
Lewis and Clark Discovering Paintings
by Frank Hagel, CCAHC.....6/30-8/27
July: Farmers' Market 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Fireworks.....4
Bill Newhouse Legion Baseball
Tourney 4-9
Crazy Days.....21-22

Heritage Days 7/30-8/3
Clark on the Lower Yellowstone
Corps of Discovery II.....7/30-8/3
Aug: Lewis and Clark
Bicentennial Event 1-3
Grand Finale Period Dress Ball with
Lewis and Clark 3
Farmers' Market.....5, 12, 19, 26
Eastern Montana Fair 24-27
Demolition Derby.....27
Sept.: Farmers' Market ..2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Signal Butte Classic Gridiron FB 2
Custer County Art & Heritage Center,
Annual Art Auction Exhibit.....30-31



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Miles City's Range Riders Museum tells the stories of dinosaurs, Native Americans, the military, guns, homesteaders, achievements and heartbreak.
Photo Courtesy of Range Riders Museum

Farmer/Rancher Banquet.....	9
Ram Sale	14
Classic Car Show.....	16
Oct.: Farmers' Market	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Art Auction, CCAHC	1
Quilted Wonders, CCAHC.....	8-12
Haunted House	28-29
Nov.: Ceramist Frances Senska CCAHC.....	11/19-12/31
AAUW Christmas Market.....	24-25
Dec.: Christmas Stroll.....	1
Community Tree Lighting.....	1
Feb. 2007: Beef Breeders Show.....	2



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Five-card draw, seven-card stud, Omaha, and hold-'em are the most popular live poker games in the area. There is a \$300 pot limit on the stakes.

Video poker pits player against machine in a game of five-card draw. The machines offer quarter and/or nickel games. After placing a bet, the player is dealt five cards on the screen. The player then has the chance to discard in order to improve the hand. Winning hands are possible through a variety of combinations.

Machines vary, some including "jacks or better" payoffs and some adding a "wild card." The pay-off is from 1 to 50 times the bet to a maximum of \$100 on a quarter bet. Up to eight quarters may be played on a bet with \$800 maximum payoff.

Keno is also legal in both live and video versions. The game of keno, originally a form of Chinese bingo, is based on random numbers. The maximum pay-off is up to \$800, again based on the bet. Gambling machines are monitored by Montana Department of Justice.

Crow and Cheyenne reservations have different conditions of play and are regulated by the National Indian Gaming Commission and by the tribes.

Many establishments also offer

bingo. Pari-mutuel horse racing, whether live or simulcast-beamed by satellite, is also legal in Montana.

The Montana Lottery offers a variety of games. A popular Montana-only game is Montana Cash, played every Wednesday and Saturday with a minimum \$20,000 jackpot.

The Montana Lottery also offers three multi-state games, Powerball (minimum \$10 million jackpot), Wild Card (minimum \$100,000 jackpot), and Hot Lotto, drawn on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Lottery tickets are available at most grocery and convenience stores in Montana.

So, pardner, you're legal to try your luck at these games while you are in Montana and Custer Country.

Good luck!...and that's no bluff!

The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Forsyth: in the Heart of Custer Country



Yellowstone River near Forsyth.
John Brewer Photo

Forsyth is the county seat of Rosebud County. The community of 2,100 residents is located on the banks of the Yellowstone River at the junction of I-94 and U.S. Highway 12. Forsyth was founded in 1880 and officially named when the post office and Northern Pacific Railroad were established there in 1882. The town bears the name of General James H. Forsyth, the first U.S. Army officer to land by steamer at the site of the present town.

Rosebud County, established in 1901, is the third largest county in the fourth largest state in the U.S. It is more than four times the size of the state of Rhode Island.

Outdoor Recreation

Hunting: If hunting and fishing spark your fancy, the Forsyth area will certainly appeal to you. Big game hunting includes trophy antelope as well as mule deer and whitetail deer.

Upland birds? You bet! Through the cooperation of Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and area landowners, a few minutes in your

vehicle puts you smack dab in the middle of ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse, partridges, and wild turkeys.

Water: Enjoy boating and fishing excitement on the Yellowstone River, which flows just north of Forsyth. Two state parks give access to the river, with plenty of camping and picnic space.

To reach Rosebud State Recreation Area (East Unit), exit I-94 at Forsyth's east exit, then turn north to the Yellowstone River.

Rosebud State Recreation Area (West Unit) west of Forsyth is on U.S. 12. Turn at the south end of the Yellowstone River Bridge, milepost 270. It has a boat ramp and access.

Snow: In winter, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are popular in the Forsyth area, and downhill skiing in the mountains is only three hours away.

Golf: About 1.5 miles west of Forsyth on the Frontage Road is the Forsyth Country Club with its beautiful nine-hole golf course with well-maintained fairways and greens, along with sand traps and water hazards to test your skills.

Forsyth's golf course schedules a full slate of summer tournaments. Visitors are welcome to participate in many of them. For a schedule or details call (406) 356-7710.

Park Facilities: Recreational opportunities flour-



The Matthew Quigley Shoot is the largest long range long rifle shoot in the world. Jim Schaefer Photo



Wildlife spottings are guaranteed in the Forsyth area. Travel Montana, Donnie Sexton Photo

ish in the Forsyth area. Parks provide football, track, baseball and softball fields, playgrounds, canopy-covered and tree-shaded picnic areas, swimming and wading pools, bathroom facilities, covered grandstands, and grassy play areas. There are also ice-skating rinks, tourist parks, and lighted tennis courts.

Agate Hunting: The surrounding area abounds in agates. The Montana moss agates are modules of gray, translucent chalcedony which, when cut and polished, reveal beautiful small manganese dendrites. Enthusiastic agate hunters visit the Yellowstone River banks each year. Lapidary work is a popular hobby in the area.

A Great Place to Live

Forsyth provides the comforts of friendly small-town living, along with recreation that only Montana can offer. The friendly people of Forsyth invite you to visit and play in southeastern Montana, in Custer Country.

Business: While oil, coal, and logging are among the top industries in the area, dryland and irrigated farming are prominent. Forsyth area ranchers are known for the high quality beef cattle and horses they raise. Thousands of cattle are shipped to market from this area annually. Many horses are trained and shown throughout the Northwest.

Sheep and wool are also of economic importance in the county.

Hospitality and Services: Forsyth can accommodate all of a traveler's needs, including hotels, motels, a variety of cafes and restaurants, a movie theatre, a modern, fully-equipped hospital, doctors, dentists, optometrists, and chiropractors. The emergency medical service personnel are highly trained and equipped. There are gas stations, grocery and clothing stores, a pharmacy, flower shop, craft shop, and a variety of gift shops. Of course you'll find a meat plant and butcher shop in this cattle country town. Tillitt Field, located 3 miles east of Forsyth, is a county-operated airport with terminal service.

Historically Speaking

Lewis and Clark: In the exploration of the great Northwest Territory, Capt. William Clark passed through Rosebud County on July 28, 1806, en route down the Yellowstone River to meet Meriwether Lewis, who was returning down the Missouri River. Forsyth is located along the famed Lewis and Clark Trail and is participating in the 2003-2006 bicentennial commemoration.

Custer Was Here: Near the town of Rosebud, just 9 miles east of Forsyth, is the spot where General Custer camped at the mouth of Rosebud Creek before traveling up that creek on his way to the Little Bighorn in his ill-fated campaign against the Indians. His trek to the Little Bighorn (Custer's Last Stand) Battlefield, 100 miles south of Forsyth, is marked, showing some of the embattlements from his Indian skirmishes.

Travel down Rosebud Creek and visit various historical sites on your way to Little Bighorn Battlefield.

Pioneer Museum: Situated next to the courthouse is the Rosebud County Pioneer Museum which you may visit for a glimpse of the past, including items used by early settlers, and many pictures that depict "the olden days."

Hours: May 1-15, 1-6; May 15 to September 15, 9-6 Monday through Saturday, 1-6 Sundays.

National Register

Courthouse: The Rosebud County Courthouse, located in Forsyth, is a neo-classical, three-story building, capped



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with an ornate copper dome. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The top floor of the courthouse, including the courtroom, is decorated with murals and stained glass. Directly under the copper dome, in the ceiling of the foyer, is a large, circular, stained-glass window. Take time for a self-guided tour of this monument to early-day architecture and justice.

A stroll around town treats the eye to a variety of historic buildings and architecture.

Sizzling Summer Events

County Fair: The Rosebud-Treasure

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County Fair is Forsyth's biggest summer event. The fair features big name entertainment, a carnival, free shows on the grounds and plenty of fun for one and all. The Rosebud-Treasure County Fair dates are July 20-23, 2006.

Distance Shooters: The Forsyth Pistol and Rifle Club sponsors the Matthew Quigley Long Range Rifle Match each year on Father's Day weekend, June 16-18 in 2006. The event, inspired by the movie "Quigley Down Under," draws participants from all over the U.S. and Canada.

It is the largest event of its kind in the world.

Duck Festival: Don't miss this big August 12 event. The Yellowstone River Duck Festival features eastern Montana's original rubber duck race, the Mayor's Cup 5K Run, a classic car show and poker run, a microbrew fest, plus a downtown street dance with live country music.

2006 Events in Forsyth

June: Matthew Quigley Shoot 16-18
Forsyth Crazy Daze 16-17

July: Chamber of Commerce
Fireworks Show 4

Rosebud County Classic MTRA
Team Roping 28-30

Rosebud-Treasure County
Fair 20-23

Aug.: Duck Festival: Mayor's Cup 5K
Run, Parade, Classic Car Show,

MicroBrew Fest, Street Dance 12

Oct: Moonlight Madness 26

Nov.: Farm/City Night 17
Parade of Lights 24

Rosebud

In the town of Rosebud, 12 miles east of Forsyth, a site of interest is a non-denominational church that is the oldest continuously operating church in the state. Far West State Recreation Area is 1 mile north of Rosebud on Secondary 446. Drive a half mile west on the county road.

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Area Rich for Rock Hounds

Hunting for agates is a fun and unique recreation for visitors to southeastern Montana.

The Yellowstone River in Eastern Montana is renowned worldwide for the quality and abundance of agates found on its shores. Montana's agates, sometimes called plume or moss agates, are famous for the variety of scenic designs sealed permanently in the stone's interior.

Agate is a translucent rock, snake-skin rough on the outside. The rocks are gray, tan, or brown and often shaped like a potato. Agate occurs primarily in terrace gravel deposits high on the hills above the Yellowstone River and its tributaries, as well as along and in the rivers. Agates are most abundant from Custer to Glendive.

Guided agate-hunting boat tours are available. Contact the Glendive Chamber (406) 856-4156 or write: 313 S. Merrill, Glendive, MT 59330 for guide service information and self-guided agate hunting opportunities.

Geology is both productive and

aesthetic in Custer Country. One of the world's largest coal supplies lies just under the surface cover near Colstrip.

Lewis and Clark's Expedition of 1804-1806 first recorded the unusual rock formations of the southeastern Montana region. From the rimrocks that frame the Billings valley, to Pompeys Pillar, to Glendive's Makoshika State Park, and Medicine Rocks State Park between Baker and Ekalaka, the geology offers a rewarding excursion through Custer Country.

The Pryor Mountains are a remote collection of limestone mountains, ranging in elevation from about 3,000 feet to 8,000 feet. They are extremely rich in archaeological sites.

In the Terry badlands area, a band of dark gray shale is sandwiched between layers of light yellow sandstone and capped by red clinker, formed when burning coal seams baked adjacent rock layers. The contrasts are beautiful, especially during sunrise and sunset.

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Cheyenne Nation



The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation is part of the last

remaining homelands of the proud and noble northern branch of the Cheyenne Native Americans. Their territorial range once stretched over much of the Great Plains

The Cheyenne largely credit the fact that they have their reservation to one of the most important epics in their prestigious history - the Cheyenne Exodus. During this exodus, the Northern Cheyenne, dying from disease and starvation in the confinement of Oklahoma, fled to their northern homelands in Montana in what their oral history calls "a long, running fight." The Northern Cheyenne divided, and Little Wolf took one group to Montana with little loss. Dull Knife (also known as Morning Star) took the rest to Fort Robinson in Nebraska. They finally broke out of confinement, and with great loss of life, their courage, determination and faith brought them home.

Today the official Tribal Government stationery bears the images of the two main chiefs recognized in the exodus - Little Wolf and Morning Star. An inscription on it reads, "Out of defeat and exile they led us back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever."

Established in 1884, the 444,525-acre reservation has beautiful, sweeping lands of prairies and timber-covered foothills that hold four main communities scattered among its streams and rivers. Three of these communities are along US Highway 212.

Lame Deer, Tribal Headquarters:

Lame Deer is the largest community on the reservation and hosts the tribal government in Little Wolf Capitol Building in the center of town. With a convenience store/gas station, churches, shops, a picture museum, ATMs, a large grocery store and a bank, Lame Deer is also the site of Chief Dull Knife Memorial College, an Indian Health Clinic and the offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. See page 128 for chamber contact information. ncheyenne.net

Pow-wows: The premier event of the Northern Cheyenne is the annual Fourth of July Celebration, the largest pow-wow held on the reservation. It includes fun runs and health walks.

The Princess Contest (all princesses welcomed), Indian dancing contests in all categories, parades, and grand entries welcome visitors to a brilliant display of color and traditions. Gourd dancing is held daily. Traditional feasts of Native foods are always part of the festivities, and all drum groups, dancers, singers, and vendors are encouraged to attend.

Campsites at the Kenneth Beartusk Pow-wow Grounds, 3 miles south of Lame Deer, are available, and photography is welcomed.

The date for 2006 is July 1-4.

Arts and Crafts: Cheyenne arts and crafts, found in few other areas, are displayed and sold at various places on the reservation including, Chief Dull Knife Memorial College, the Northern Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce, the Cheyenne Depot, and the Lame Deer Trading store. Individual Cheyenne artisans often set up on the street.

Chief Dull Knife Memorial College: Chief Dull Knife College offers affordable educational opportunities to the reservation and surrounding communities. Dr. John Woodenlegs Memorial Library at the college has an extensive Native American book collection, as well as historical photographs, paintings and cultural displays. The bookstore has a collection of arts and crafts and Native American books for sale. A new straw building has been constructed on the site. dkmc.cc.mt.us

RV Park, Campground, B&B

There are several recreational sites in the area, and camping permits are required: Crazy Head Spring, Ice Wells, and Buffalo Jump.

Crazy Head Springs Recreational Area: Between Lame Deer and Ashland, 1.5 miles south off US Highway 212 is the Cheyenne Reservation's main recreation area where natural springs flow into several large ponds for swimming, fishing, camping and picnicking. Camping permits are required, available from

Northern Cheyenne Natural

Resources department, (406) 477-6503, 447-6284, or 477-6506.

The Gaming Tradition

Northern Cheyenne gaming and traditional betting has been in existence since pre-reservation days, beginning with the tradition of handgames, horse racing, foot racing, and arrow throwing contests.

Today, under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, gaming is a means of generating economic development for Northern Cheyenne tribal members

The tribe completed the Charging Horse Casino, Bingo and Restaurant in 2002. It has 100 video poker and keno machines with \$1000 payouts, a 500-seat bingo hall and a 40-seat, full-menu restaurant. The name of the facility symbolizes the charge of two heroic Cheyenne warriors, Headchief and Youngmule, into the U.S. Cavalry.

Cheyenne History

White rocks can be seen from the front doors of Charging Horse Casino, Bingo and Restaurant. They mark the trail of Headchief and Youngmule's epic final ride and run.

Their story, as written by the late Donald Hollowbreast is paraphrased as follows:

Head Chief, a young Cheyenne, was a man of few words and had no schooling in his youth. To help ease the hunger of his girlfriend and her family near Lame Deer in late September in 1890, he and his friend, Young Mule saddled up their horses and rode into the hills south of Lame Deer.

They happened onto a herd of cattle owned by Hugh Boyle. Head Chief picked out a yearling and shot it. He and Young Mule butchered it, quartered it and packed it on horses. On the way to Head Chief's girlfriend's home, they were accosted by Hugh Boyle, who accused them of killing one of his cattle. Young Mule had received his schooling at St. Labre Mission in Ashland, and he understood some English.

Head Chief pulled his rifle from the scabbard. The white man started to ride to get away. Head Chief aimed



Morning Star Design

and shot him off his horse.

They marked where he fell and hid his body in the hills. They knew the soldiers would be after them.

On the ration day, September 30, 1890, Head Chief prepared to meet the soldiers, dressing up in his war bonnet with regalia. His horse's tail was tied in a knot with feathers tied into it.

Head Chief and Young Mule made their charge from the top of the former Squaw Hill, now the Head Chief and Young Mule Memorial Hill. Head Chief rode down the south slope and across the Alderson Gulch and over the hill where he charged into the line of kneeling soldiers with his drawn sword and rode through and over the hill, where he fell off his horse, dead.

Young Mule walked down the hill with bullets kicking up dirt around him, reaching the bottom where he died in the trees. Head Chief's horse survived and joined the wild horses in the hills southeast of Lame Deer.

The story, posted at the Charging Horse, was written up in the Magazine of Western History — Autumn, 1964.

A sign with their story is also posted at the rest area on the southern outskirts of Lame Deer along Highway 212. At the foot of the hill is the Lame Deer cemetery, the last resting place of many warriors and veterans, including some of the last great chiefs of old.

Lame Deer Battle Site: Lame Deer is named from a battle with a Miniconjou Sioux chief just southwest of the present-day town.

Mullin Picture Museum: The Jessie Mullin Picture Museum displays a collection of over 7,000 pictures, articles, books and artifacts that piece together the stories of Cheyenne families, along with pictures of the agency and enrollment census. The museum has a map of the cemetery on display. Admission is free. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday or by appointment. Call (406) 477-6460.

Before the Bighorn

"Where the Girl Saves Her Brother"
Rosebud Battlefield: A little more than a week before the Battle of the Little Bighorn, on June 17, 1876, over 1,300 soldiers, scouts, and miners were confronted in battle by an equal number of Sioux and Cheyenne warriors along the hills of Rosebud Creek.

The Cheyenne named the battle for the heroism of one of their warrior-women who fearlessly risked her own life to rescue her brother whose mount



Charles Curtis, left, is the only American Indian who has served as Vice President of the United States. He served from 1929-1933 under Herbert Hoover. Native American facts, pictures such as this one, and artifacts are preserved and displayed at the Jessie Mullin Picture Museum in Lame Deer.
AP Photo reprinted 2001 Indian Country Today

had been shot out from under him. Turned back from meeting with the other Army columns that included the 7th Cavalry, the force under General Crook withdrew from the campaign, giving the Cheyenne and Sioux a victory that contributed to the victory June 25 at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Montana State Parks has developed a self-guided walking tour at the Rosebud Battlefield site. Traveling south of Busby on Highway 212, take the turnoff to Decker on Highway 314. Follow 314 for 20 miles to the battlefield sign. The site is 1.5 miles from the turn along an access road.

Little Bighorn Battlefield:

Approximately 40 minutes west of Lame Deer is the location of the most legendary battle of the Plains Indian Wars. The Spirit Warriors Indian Monument was dedicated in 2003.

Busby

Named after an early trader, the town of Busby is the eastern-most community of the reservation. Also rich in history, this is the site of Custer's last camp before his demise. Busby is also the site of the ancestral burial grounds for victims of the Fort Robinson Break Out.

Two Moons Monument: Chief Two Moons was one of the main Cheyenne chiefs at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. The monument in his honor, a rock cairn easily visible a few yards south of Highway 212, was erected in 1936 by W.P. Moncure, an Indian trader, with the help of a store employee named Jules. These traders reburied

Two Moons' body along with his and other Cheyennes' personal items from the Battle of the Little Bighorn, and a sealed envelope of documents.

The monument vault was broken into and items were missing along with the sealed envelope around October 1960.

Rabbit Town

The Cheyenne community of Rabbit Town is a cluster of about 25 houses on the eastern side of the reservation. The town of Ashland lies just across the Tongue River, which is the eastern boundary of the Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

Dates of Pow-wows:

May: Lame Deer Memorial Day Pow-wow and Rodeo.....May 27-28
July: Northern Cheyenne Fourth of July Celebration.....1-4
Nov.: Lame Deer Veteran's Day Pow-wow.....11-12

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The Cheyenne Indians hunted the animals of the plains, then used the original "natural fabrics" to make rawhide garments. Quills and feathers adorned the tanned hides. Beads, brought by the westward moving White Man, became an artistic medium in the creative hands of the Cheyennes. Colorful geometric patterns were created bead by bead. The garments are worn at ceremonial events. Lame Deer, MT is headquarters for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

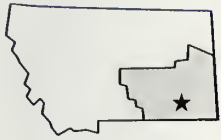
Cheyenne Traditions

Above: a pinto horse, draped in ceremonial beaded buckskin. The display is part of the Cheyenne Indian Museum at the St. Labre Indian School, Ashland, which is open to the public. Photo courtesy of St. Labre Indian School

Right and below: Dancers at the Memorial Day Pow-wow at Lame Deer. Participants come from the local area, as well as from other tribes and Indian Nations.
Larry Tanglen Photos



Ashland



Between Forests and Water: At Ashland, 21 miles east of Lame Deer, are the St. Labre Mission and the Cheyenne Indian Museum and Gift Shop. Take the time to visit these two attractions, located side-by-side on the edge of Ashland. Free tours of the mission and museum are available.

Located on Highway 212, the shortest route between the Black Hills and Yellowstone Park, Ashland is an ideal spot to take a break. It has the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation on one side and a beautiful segment of Custer National Forest on the other. The town has traveler comforts — motel, cafes, groceries, a leather shop, gas stations and convenience stores, propane fill-ups, a bank, and a medical clinic.

Exit at Little Bighorn Battlefield I-90 Exit 510, at the Highway 212 junction.

Just the facts: Ashland has just under 500 residents inhabiting its 12 square miles. It is 1,616 miles from Washington, DC, and 287 miles (as the crow flies) from the Montana capital, Helena. It is 45.62 degrees north of the equator and 106.31 degrees west of the prime meridian ... in just the right place.

St. Labre Indian School: In 1883, a soldier, Private George Yoakam, stationed at Fort Keogh near Miles City, recognized the hard times experienced by the Northern Cheyenne. He contacted Bishop Brondel and told him of the Indian people who were roaming the Tongue River Valley without

homes or land. Subsequently, the bishop purchased land, and on March 29, 1884, St. Labre Indian School became a reality. Four Ursuline Sisters from Toledo, OH, responded to the bishop's requests for priests and nuns.

St. Labre Indian School made a humble beginning in a log cabin school operated by the Sisters. This three-room cabin served as residence, school and dormitory, as well as the church. A replica of the cabin now stands on the site of the original mission. Today St. Labre provides accredited pre-school through grade 12 education to more than 700 children at three locations on the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian reservations. Native American Day is celebrated at the schools the fourth Friday in September (Sept. 22, 2006).

St. Labre depends almost entirely on private donations for its many programs. Without federal or church funds, many friends all over the United States "keep the miracle alive."

Visitors to this facility will enjoy seeing the unique tepee-style church and Cheyenne Indian Museum and Gift Shop with its large collection of Native American artifacts and art from the

Northern Cheyenne, Crow, Sioux and several other tribes.

Sept.: Ashland Labor Day

Pow-wow 1-4
Native American Day 22

Outdoors Opportunities

Near Ashland is Red Shale Campground, managed by the Forest Service. It is 6 miles southeast of Ashland on US 212. Open year round, it has 14 camping spaces and allows trailers to 32 feet. Toilets are provided. No fee is charged.

Holiday Springs Campground is 20 miles northeast of Ashland on the East Fork of Otter Creek Road. It is also managed by the Forest Service. It has only three campsites. Trailers are allowed. No services and no potable water are available. No fees are charged.

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Cheyenne Native American Day feast. St. Labre Indian Mission and School Photo



The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Take a splash at Colstrip's water slide.
Tana Pippin Photo

Modern Day Boom Town

Energy Meets History

Colstrip is a town built on energy, both literally and figuratively. Established in 1923 by the Northern Pacific Railroad, the huge coal reserves in the area were used as a source of fuel for that era's steam locomotives.

In the 1970s, Montana Power Company chose the town as the site for two large coal-fired power plants that are now operated by energy company PPL Montana. The energy generated at these plants is distributed throughout the Northwest to help supply heat and light for communities in Montana, Wyoming and other western states.

While the area continues to be the center of energy production in Montana, the 2,300 residents also expend their energy to maintain a picturesque and vibrant community.

Colstrip is part of a loop tour through history, culture, mining, and art. Highway 39 turns south from I-94 for a 30-mile drive through hills that provide deer habitat, rolling lands where antelope graze, and cinematic skies dotted with hawks, eagles, and other fascinating birds, to Colstrip. This route is the great connector that then takes travelers on to Lame Deer and Busby on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation through colorful nature-carved sandstone formations, then on to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument at

Crow Agency, and Custer Battlefield Museum at Garryowen. Travelers coming from the battlefield area first, can complete the circle loop with a visit to Custer Country's other National Monument at Pompeys Pillar, I-94 Exit 23.

Taking History to School

Schoolhouse History and Art Center: This center, called SHAC, preserved for arts and history, is housed in a 1924 schoolhouse that is now a community cultural center featuring rotating historic and artistic exhibits.

Concerned citizens saved the schoolhouse from destruction, recognizing that the historic structure should be saved for new uses.

Today, SHAC offers art instruction for youths and adults, sponsors art exhibits, and serves as the repository for historic photos and artifacts that record the history of this unique town.

In addition, it is the community center for concerts, recitals by musicians and entertainers, and exhibitions by well-known artists. Contact SHAC at (406) 748-4822 for a current schedule.

The Gallery Gift Shop features local art and hand-crafted items. Gallery and gift shop hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday in summer and Monday through Friday in winter. No admission is charged and the center is handicap accessible.



Family recreation makes Colstrip the fun spot.
Tana Pippin Photo

Business Hospitality: Colstrip's business community includes a grocery store, a new clothing store, hardware and lumber stores, a bank, motels, and two service stations. Restaurants and casinos combine dining and gaming fun.

A unique new business is a cooperative dry goods store called Got Socks. The store fulfills the need for sundries, clothing, and other standard necessities, often scarce in towns off the beaten path. Montana-made products round out the offerings of this store, housed in a section of the middle school and created by its energetic citizens.

Airstrip: The Colstrip Airstrip is located 5 miles west of Colstrip and is open day and night.

Lake: Originally built by the railroad as a source of water for steam engines, Castle Rock Lake serves today as a spot for fishing by boat and from shore. Easily accessible on the northwest edge of Colstrip, the lake is an inviting swimming spot and a sanctuary for enjoying birds and wildlife. It is surrounded by bike paths and picnic areas for summer fun and exercise.

Parks and Recreation District: Playgrounds and parks make every area a family neighborhood. Energy developers planned superb school and recreational facilities, baseball, softball, and ice skating complexes, tennis and basketball courts, BMX and ice skating parks, wading

pools, bike and hiking paths, tot lots, and bowling lanes.

Sports Town of the Year: Sports Illustrated chose the Colstrip Parks and Recreation Department's community center as Montana's Sports Town of the Year in 2003 in SI's 50th anniversary tops list. As the focal point of the town's activities, the cen-

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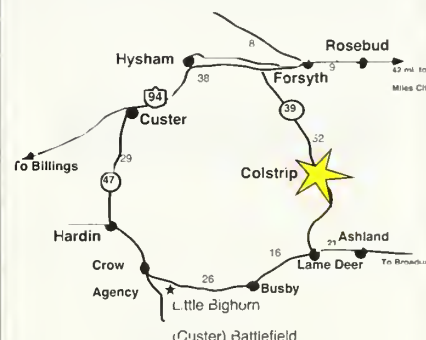
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A 1924 schoolhouse is now a history and art center which invites the public to visit without an admission charge.
Jim Schaefer Custer Country Photo

beverage service, pro shop, lessons available from a PGA pro, and rentals. For a tee time call (406) 748-2700.

Colstrip Days: The folks of Colstrip are waiting to welcome you with friendliness, and ... well ... lots of energy! The parade, carnival, booths, bump-n-run, and entertainment have everyone in the mood for fun during their biggest event of the year, Colstrip Days, June 23-25, 2006.

Jam Sessions: Enjoy jam sessions at SHAC the third Thursdays of Feb., March, April, May, Sept. and Nov.

2006 Events in Colstrip

Feb.: Gone to Pieces Quilt Show, SHAC 1-28

March: K-12 Student Art Show SHAC 1-31

April: Linda Piper Art Show 1-30

May: Kristi Brothers Clay Art Show, SHAC 5/1-6/30

June: Colstrip Days 23-25

July: Traveling Art Collection SHAC 7/1-8/31

Sept.: Clint McRae Art Show SHAC 1-30

Oct.: Native Perspectives SHAC 10/1-11/30

Dec.: Smithsonian Exhibit - Key Ingredients: America by Food SHAC 12/1-1-31

ter has a swimming pool, water slide, weight room, arts and crafts classes, and amphitheater.

Golf Course: A challenging nine-hole golf course - Ponderosa Butte Public Golf Course, adjacent to Highway 39 on the north side of town (across from the high school), has the appropriate street address of 1 Long Drive. The clubhouse has food and



Castle Rock Lake is a fun place for fishing or canoeing. Jim Schaefer Custer Country Photo

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Crow Nation

Crow Fair. Donnie Sexton Travel Montana Photo

Experience the Culture of the Apsaalooke



The Crow Reservation is where culture and tradition are a way of life, perpetuated

from generation to generation. Experience the culture of the Apsaalooke, "Children of the Large-Beaked Bird," the Crow People.

A Way of Life: "Come and share with us our way of life, the history and nature's beauty, the mountains, canyons, rivers, plains, animals and the people, protectors of sacred grounds."

"Experience what it is we must keep. A large area of land was designated to the Apsaalooke (or Biilooka) in the treaty of 1851; in 1868 precious portions were taken away."

Seven Communities: Now on an area of 3,565 square miles, the Crow Nation is comprised of seven main communities: **Wyola**, at the very southeast, is the gateway to the sacred Bighorn Mountains and the Medicine Wheel, where "The Mighty Few" are

known for "hand games."

North of Wyola is **Lodge Grass** (the Greasy Grass area and early-day summer hunting grounds), the first full-service town from the south on I-90, home of the cool, shady White Arm Park. A four-day Valley of the Chiefs Celebration is held each 4th of July here. It is the route through "No Water" and "Rotten Grass" to the "Valley of the Chiefs." Southwest is Willow Creek Reservoir for fishing, boating, sunbathing, and picnics.

Further north is **Garryowen**, a region steeped in rich history that includes Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument and borders **Crow Agency** — hub of tribal management and government. In Crow Agency a new Crow/Northern Cheyenne Indian Hospital includes a very fine collection of Crow and Northern Cheyenne artwork and crafts for the enjoyment of visitors. Southwest are **St. Xavier** and **Fort Smith** near Bighorn Canyon and Yellowtail Dam, the source of the

Bighorn River. Northwest on the reservation is **Pryor**, home of Chief Plenty Coups State Park. The Bighorn, Pryor and Wolf Mountains are the backdrop.

Little Big Horn College: A tribal community college is also a nucleus of Crow Agency. Among the college's attributes are its extensive library and Crow Archives, and a tourism program. Apsaalooke Tours is a division of the college which offers visitors and tourists catered local and cultural activities and tour packages.

Visit the St. Dennis Parish in Crow Agency to view fifteen 5-foot high panels depicting Biblical stories. Christ, Mary and others are depicted as Native Americans by a Connecticut artist.

Crow Fair, Teepee Capitol of the World: Each year on the third weekend of August (Moon of heat waves on the grass), the season finale is the premier Powwow of the Plains Indians.

From every western state and Canada, Indians come to camp along

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Members of tribes from every western state and Canada create "the tepee capital of the world" during Crow Fair.
Travel Montana, Donnie Sexton Photo

the Little Bighorn River, holding spectacular parades each morning; an all-Indian rodeo, with cowboys from all over the nation; pari-mutuel racing and betting, wild horse races and dances. In Crow Agency, the 86th annual Crow Fair will be held August 17-20, 2006.

Other events to enjoy in 2006 are Valley of Chiefs Powwow and Rodeo, July 1-4, and Native American Day, Sept. 22.

Traditions: Annually the communities of Crow People live their tradition and hold a variety of cultural events such as hand games, arrow throwing, Indian dances and seasonal ceremonies.

Sought after are beaded finery of the Crow People. Old Crow Indian style designs and contemporary beaded creations on traditional regalia are of collector caliber. Visitors will find many artisans and art pieces.

Cattle drives, trail rides, camp-outs, hiking, guided tours, jackpot rodeos, and other recreation are also available through private Native American establishments on the Crow Indian Reservation. For help with interpretation of cultural activities, contact the Crow Tribal Building, Crow Agency, MT 59022, (406) 638-3700, fax 638-3881.



Janelle Jefferson participates in the fancy dance competition.
Milt Wester Photo

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Apsaalooke Van Tours are sponsored by
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located 3 miles north of the Little Bighorn Battlefield.

Little Big Horn College

P.O. Box 370

Crow Agency, MT 59022

Phone: (406) 638-7272 or 638-3139

Fax: (406) 638-3157

Little Bighorn Battlefield



The Spirit Warriors will eternally race across the plains. They are part of the Indian Memorial at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. Gloria Wester Photo

Located near Crow Agency, on Highway 212 (I-90 Exit 510), Little Bighorn Battlefield is just 15 miles east of Hardin.



On a scorching June Sunday in 1876, hundreds of

Indian warriors converged on a grassy ridge rising above the valley of Montana's Little Bighorn River. On the ridge, five companies of United States Cavalry, about 210 officers and troopers, fought desperately but hopelessly against many times their number. When the guns fell silent and the smoke and dust of battle lifted, no U.S. Cavalry soldier survived.

Visitor Center Schedule

Memorial Day to Labor Day

.....8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

September - October

.....8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

November through March

.....8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

April through May 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The **Monument and Cemetery** are open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Memorial Day to July 31, 8-8 August 1 to Labor Day, 8-6 in September and October, 8-4:30 November through March, and 8-6 April and May.

Little Bighorn Battlefield was created in 1879, initially to honor only Lt. Col. George A. Custer and U.S. soldiers killed in battle June 25, 1876. Over the years the Native Americans who fought Custer also have been memorialized in what was one of their last armed efforts to retain their lands against the continued encroachment by European cultures.

To understand the circumstances responsible for this clash requires a detailed explanation of events. Many books have been written on the battle history. The Historic Trails Map on page 70 follows the movements of the cavalry and the Indian nations prior to the battle.

The Battlefield

The Battlefield and the Visitor Center, which has an interpretive museum and bookstore, are open 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. every day in the summer. There is a gate fee of \$10.00 per private vehicle to visit the Battlefield and National Monument Museum, \$5.00 per pedestrian. However, those wishing only to visit the Custer National Cemetery enter free.

Admission to Little Bighorn Battlefield is free on Memorial Day, June 25 (the anniversary of the battle), and August 25 (National Parks Day).

Programs

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, live ranger programs and talks are repeated at varying times daily. Visitors should check at the Visitor Center for the daily program schedule.

Tours:

Little Bighorn College Apsaalooke tours are one-hour guided bus tours with Native American guides.

Three walking trails have been established: Reno-Bentzen Defense site, 5 miles south of the Custer field; Keogh/Crazy Horse position on Battle Ridge; and along Deep Ravine, west of Battle Ridge.

Self-guiding tour pamphlets, audio tours, and private business guides, through reservation, are also available.

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center interprets the battle, Indian culture, archaeology, and frontier soldiers in a variety of exhibits. In the summer, living history contact stations are set up daily at the patio area of the Visitor Center to interpret the life of the Plains Indians, and the U.S. Cavalry and Indian Scouts in 1876.

Visitors may check at the Visitor Center for times and places or call (406) 638-2621.

May We Recommend

The battlefield offers a number of attractions, activities and historic experiences to enjoy throughout the year.

- Custer National Cemetery, containing burials that are historic to Northern Plains events as well as burial of veterans and dependents from 1879-present.

- White Swan Memorial Library: Contains the finest collection of research materials available on the Battle of the Little Bighorn, as well as other related historical events. Visits are by appointment only.

- Bookstore, operated by Western National Parks Association.

- A Junior Ranger Program is offered year round.

Apsaalooke Warriors Park
is the Crow Veterans'
commemorative
recreation and
picnic area
at Crow
Agency
near I-90
Exit 510.
Gloria Wester Photo



Peace Through Unity Little Bighorn Battlefield Indian Memorial Dedicated

Today we honor Indian participants who fought and died in the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25-26, 1876, defending their families and their traditional way of life.

— From the official program distributed at the Indian Memorial dedication.

— June 25, 2003

Hosted by the tribes historically affiliated with the world-famous Battle of the Little Bighorn and the National Park Service, thousands of people gathered at the battlefield June 25-26, 2003, to dedicate the new Indian Memorial. Hosting tribes were the Tsistsistas - Cheyenne, Lakota - Sioux, Hinono'eino' - Arapaho, Sahnish - Arikara, and Apsaalooke - Crow.

Custer Battlefield Historical and Museum Association writes: "By June 1876, the several bands of the Lakota Teton Sioux along with their ally the Northern Cheyenne, had reached the traditional summer hunting areas in the Yellowstone, Powder, Tongue, and Big Horn River country. Three columns of the United States Army were moving into the same region.

"By July, over 300 combatants from all sides lay dead in the Montana and Wyoming countryside. The Lakota and Cheyenne bands dispersed, as was their custom when pressed by the U.S. Army. The Sioux war of 1876-77

continued for the next year, concluding by the summer of 1877, after Lakota and Cheyenne people surrendered or sought refuge in Canada. The dust that settled over these battlefields covered and clouded the history as much as it covered the drying sage and bleaching bones."

In 1881 a memorial was erected at the mass grave site where the Battle of the Little Bighorn took place to honor the members of the U.S.

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Little Bighorn Battlefield Tour

Year Round - Daily

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- Reno Valley Fight
- Indian Encampments
- Indian Memorial

Guide by Native Montana Historian

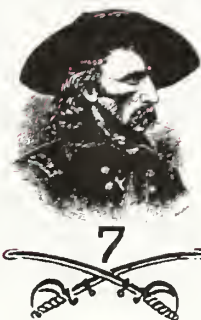
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the battlefield area or from www.custerbattle.com

Seventh Cavalry and General George A. Custer who perished there June 25, 1876. June 25, 2003, the people of our nation again gathered at this site to officially dedicate a different memorial, this one honoring the Indians who fought, on either side, to preserve their land and culture. The dedication theme was "Peace Through Unity." It was held on the 127th anniversary of the battle, sponsored by all of the tribes involved in the battle.

The Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, part of the National Park Service, is the site of the two memorials. It is located just south of Crow Agency and was formerly known as the Custer Battlefield National Monument.

In 1991, Congress renamed the site and in the same law, directed that an Indian Memorial be designed and constructed to formally acknowledge the Indian perspective and to recognize and honor Native Americans who struggled and died to preserve and defend their homeland and traditional way of life.

In 1994 Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan appointed an 11-member Indian Memorial Advisory Committee to oversee the Indian memorial design competition and select a design. From a total of 554 entries, they announced the winning



Enos Poor Bear Sr., Oglala Lakota elder.
Photo courtesy Little Bighorn Battlefield

design in March of 1997 — John Collins and Allison Towers of Philadelphia, PA.

The dedication ceremony included descendants of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull as well as many tribal leaders.

The Spirit Warriors for the memorial were designed by Pine Ridge, South Dakota, Ogalala Lakota Colleen Cutschall, who is a Professor of Visual and Aboriginal Arts at Brandon



The 1926 reunion of the 7th Cavalry with
Crow and Cheyenne Indians.
Archive photo courtesy of
Little Bighorn Battlefield

University in Manitoba, Canada. All rights to the art are reserved and require permission for use.

Peace Through Unity — Cheyenne Elder Two Moons and former Montana Governor Ted Schwinden had declared American Indian International Peace Day June 25, 1985.

"The way our elders made things better was through unity. Unity of purpose; unity of dedication; and unity of effort ... we observe that all major accomplishments of Indian people were brought about when unity was present ... Major progress among Indian people will come about only where there is unity of effort ..."

— Enos Poor Bear, Sr.,
Oglala Lakota elder
Reenactments

Reenactments are NOT organized by or held at the battlefield.

Hardin Area Chamber of Commerce will present Custer's Last Stand Reenactment June 23-25, 2006, the weekend closest to the anniversary of the original 1876 conflict. The reenactment is held 6 miles west of Hardin.

The performances are at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On Saturday a second performance is held at 5 p.m. See the Hardin section in this edition for complete details.

The Real Bird Reenactment of the Battle of the Little Bighorn reenacts the battle as told by the Crow Real Bird family. It will be held on the historical west side of the Little Bighorn River, across from Medicine Trail Coulee near Garryowen June 23-25. Living history demonstrations, a tepee village, period stores and period dress will bring living histories of past generations to you. Tickets are sold at the gate, with no reserved seating. Direct inquiries to (406) 638-2808.

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Garryowen

The Most Famous Little Town in America



Garryowen is one of the most historic sites in Custer Country and a "must see" for those interested in the Battle of the Little Bighorn and the history of the American West.

"Garryowen," the old Irish tune, was the regimental marching song of the 7th U.S. Cavalry — Custer's men.

A registered historic site, Garryowen, the only town within the Battlefield, is located at I-90 Exit 514 just south of Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument and Custer National Cemetery. The site is just one hour's drive from Billings, MT, or from Sheridan, WY.

The Battle of the Little Bighorn began on this quiet riverbank when 7th Cavalry troops attacked Sitting Bull's camp in the first military action of the West's most famous battle. This grassy riverbank is where Major Marcus Reno's troops attacked Sitting Bull's camp on the afternoon of June 25, 1876, in the first action of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

From Garryowen, visitors can view all of the famous locations associated with the Battle of the Little Bighorn, including the site where Custer was last seen alive, Major Reno's hilltop defense site, Weir Point, Last Stand Hill, Medicine

Tail Coulee, the Crow's Nest, and Wolf Mountains.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (the only remaining "unknown" soldier in the U.S.) is the site of one of the first 7th Cavalry casualties. The granite tomb was dedicated during the Burial of the Hatchet ceremony in 1926 at Garryowen, during the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. White Bull, a Sioux Indian, and General Godfrey performed the ceremony in front of 50,000 observers.

The town is now privately owned and operated. The Custer Battlefield Museum houses extensive new exhibits including hundreds of Custer Battlefield artifacts from the



An Indian parade saddle, circa 1870-80 at Custer Battlefield Museum in Garryowen.
Gloria Wester Photo



Sitting Bull

Sitting Bull
Leader of the Sioux

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We are a federally recognized 501(C)3 non-profit corporation. All donations of any kind are welcome. Christopher Kortlander, Director

Battle of the Little Bighorn and the Plains Indian War period, plus a Lewis and Clark rare books exhibit. A 45-minute documentary film is shown hourly.

Important Indian War period artifacts and manuscripts related to Custer, Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and the 7th Cavalry, as well as an acclaimed collection of important historic photographs by D.F. Barry are displayed.

In the exhibit are a lock of Custer's hair, Captain Tom W. Custer's Kerr revolver, Little Wolf's battle-worn eagle feather war bonnet, war clubs and trade knives, cavalry spurs and boot soles, and an Army pistol dropped on the Reno retreat route — still fully loaded.

A significant collection of battle-vintage beaded clothing on exhibit adds to bronzes, paintings, and other memorabilia to create an educational tour through the vanished American frontier.

The Custer Battlefield Museum is open every day of the year except holidays. For tourist and lodging information about Garryowen, call (406) 638-2020.

In the Garryowen area, visitors can drive to some of the historic points of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Up Reno Creek, on a well-improved gravel county road, about 1 mile, is Girard's Knoll and the Charge Crossing. Lone Teepee is 5 miles farther on the north side of the valley near the White Bluffs. Pack mules bogged down with heavy loads on the low swampy ground 2 miles farther, northeast of the bridge. One mile past the swamp is an old set of corrals which are near the mouth of No Name, where Capt. Benteen rejoined the route Custer and Reno followed to the Little Bighorn Valley. Continuing about 15 miles to the top of the divide between Reno Creek and Tulloch Creek puts you near the

Crows Nest. Private land prohibits trespassing.

2006 Events in Garryowen

June: SASS Cowboy Mounted Shooting Event —

Massacre on the Little Bighorn.....10-11

Greasy Grass Shoots are the second Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. All shoots are held at the 7th Ranch.



This Peace Memorial Monument was dedicated in 2001.
Gloria Wester Photo

The words on the Peace Memorial monument at Custer Battlefield Museum were written by Joe Medicine Crow Ph.D (High Bird — Dagak Bako, Crow tribal historian and grandson of Custer's last scout, Whiteman Runs Him.):

"On this site in 1876 the historic Battle of the Little Bighorn began. When we stand side by side in the circle of no beginning and no ending, the first maker, creator of all things, is in the center. He hears our words of supplication and blesses us with his infinite love which is Peace itself."

The monument was dedicated June 24, 2001, at Custer Battlefield Museum, Garryowen.

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- Ft. C.F. Smith - Hayfield Fight & Plenty Coups Museum
- Pompey's Pillar, Lewis & Clark - Pictograph Caves
- Sheridan, WY - King's Saddle Museum - Kendrick House - Sheridan Inn & Conner Fight Site
- Deer Medicine Rock, Sitting Bull's vision of soldiers falling into camp - Rosebud Battlefield

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Custer Country

2006 Vacation Planner

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Art Auction Exhibit, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings	1-28
J.K. Ralston Art Exhibit, Western Heritage Center, Billings	2/1-12/31
American Indian Histories Project: Crow and Cheyenne Nations, Western Heritage Center, Billings	2/1-12/31
Adam and L'Eternal Printemps Sculptures by Auguste Rodin, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings	2/1-7/31
A Western Icon: The Stories and Illustrations of Will James, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings	2/1-12/31
Ron White Comedian Show, MetraPark, Billings	2
Cowtown Beef Breeders Show, Miles City	3
Artwalk, Downtown, Billings	3
27th Annual/SE MT Juried Exhibit, Custer County Art and Heritage Center, Miles City	5-19
4-C Tournament, Miles City	9-11
All Class Wrestling, MetraPark, Billings	10-11
Agri Trade Expo, Glendive	10-11
Romance at Moss Mansion, Billings	14
MATE Show, MetraPark, Billings	16-18
NRA Rodeo, MetraPark, Billings	17-19
Tap Dogs Dance Group, ABT, Billings	17-18
Out of Order British Farce, BST, Billings	17-19, 23-26
Eastern A Div Boys/Girls Basketball, MetraPark, Billings	23-25
Gun Show, MCC College, Miles City	24-25
Dvorak's 8th and John Dutton by Billings Symphony, ABT, Billings	25
Antique Show, MetraPark, Billings	25-26
MardiGras of Montana, Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings	28

MARCH

K-12 School Art Show, SHAC, Colstrip	1-31
Boys State C Basketball, MetraPark, Billings	2-4
Out of Order British Farce, BST, Billings	2-4
Thursday Night at the Improv, Venture Theatre, Billings	2, 9, 16, 23
Nickel and Dime, Venture Theatre, Billings	3-5, 10-12, 17-18
Home Improvement Show, MetraPark, Billings	3-5
Oh, Promise Me, Venture Theatre, Billings	3-5
Party and Art Auction, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings	4
Three Musketeers, ABT, Billings	4
Rocky Mountain Arts and Craft Festival, MetraPark, Billings	4-5
Elks Annual Auction, Miles City	6-8
Leahy - Fiddle, Dance, and Song, ABT, Billings	8-9
State AA Boys & Girls BB, MetraPark, Billings	9-11
State A GBB Tournament, Miles City	9-11
March Motor Madness Car Show, Billings Hotel and Convention Center, Billings	10-12
Gun Show, Glendive	10-11
Rounding Third, BST, Billings	10-12, 16-18
A Couple of Blaguards, Comedy, ABT, Billings	11
Berenstein Bears on Stage!, ABT, Billings	13-14
Chamber Town & Country Banquet, Hardin	17
MORE Show, MetraPark, Billings	17-19
St. Patrick's Day Parade, Downtown Billings	18
Haydn's The Creation by Billings Symphony, ABT, Billings	18
Cowtown BB Tournament, Miles City	18-19
Golden Dragon Acrobats, ABT, Billings	31
The Montana Collection, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings	3/23-5/21
A Gathering of Andersons, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings	3/23-6/4
Light on Glass and ZigZag Lightning, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings	3/23-7/31
Die Fledermaus by Rimrock Opera, ABT, Billings	24, 26
MSU-Billings Student Art Show and Auction, The Depot, Billings	24
St Vincent's Child Safety & Health Expo, MetraPark, Billings	25
Biennial Student Art Exhibit, Custer County Art and Heritage Center, Miles City	3/26-4/23

3/26-4/23

Gun Show, Holiday Inn Trade Center, Billings	3/31-4/02
MSU-Billings Pow Wow, MetraPark, Billings	3/31-4/1
Custer Country Brochure Swap Meet, Miles City	31

APRIL

Linda Piper Art Show, SHAC, Colstrip	1-30
Home Builders Show, MetraPark, Billings	4
Thursday Night at the Improv, Venture Theatre, Billings	6, 13, 20, 27
Turtle Island String Quartet, ABT, Billings	7
Billings Gun Show, MetraPark, Billings	7-9
Joined at the Head, Venture Theatre, Billings	7-9, 14-16
NILE Pro Bull Riders and Horse Show, MetraPark	7-8
Hooked on Paddlefish Display Unveiled, Glendive	10



Indian dancers share their culture. Milt Wester Photo

Cirkus Inferno - Daredevil Opera Co. ABT, Billings	11
Pari-mutuel Horse Races, Miles City	14
Spring Fling Home Garden Expo, Glendive	14-15
42nd Street, ABT, Billings	14-15
The Mikado-Carl Rosa Opera, ABT, Billings	18
Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Holiday Inn Trade Center, Billings	19-20
Springfest Auction, Miles City	21-22
Ellis Island: Dream of America by Billings Symphony, ABT, Billings	22
Fiddlers' Jamboree, Hardin	23
Quilt Show, Glendive	28-29
Clean Up Day & Vigilante Dinner, Baker	29
Western Art Roundup-JK Ralston Paintings Custer County Art and Heritage Center, Miles City	4/30-6/25

MAY

Thursday Night at the Improv, Venture Theatre, Billings	4, 11, 18, 25
Kristi Brothers Clay Art Show, SHAC, Colstrip	5/1-6/30
Art Walk, Downtown Billings	5
4-H Cat Fest, MetraPark, Billings	5-6
Hot Club of San Francisco, ABT, Billings	6
Farmers Market, Miles City	6, 13, 20, 27
Montana Women's Run, Downtown, Billings	12-13
ABATE Motorcycle Show and Bikers Ball, Glendive	12-13
Citywide Garage Sale, Glendive	13
Antique Show and Sale, MetraPark, Billings	13-14
Pari-Mutuel Horse Races, Miles City	14
MSU Billings Wine and Food Festival, MSU Campus, Billings	15-20
Paddlefish Season, Glendive	5/15-6/30
Bucking Horse Sale Concert Little Texas, Miles City	18
Kids' Day, Big Horn County Museum, Hardin	18
Bucking Horse Sale and Races, Miles City	18-21
Gem, Fossil, and Mineral Show, Holiday Inn, Billings	19-20
Guns, Antiques, Collectibles Show, MetraPark, Billings	19-21
Urinetown, Venture Theatre, Billings	19-20, 25-28
Bucking Horse Parade, Miles City	20
Western Art Roundup Quick Draw, Miles City	20
Open Reception/Sunday Brunch, Custer County Art and Heritage Center, Miles City	21
Lions Club Fun Fest, Roundup	21
Moby Dick, ABT, Billings	24
Montana Arabian Horse Show, MetraPark, Billings	26-28
Memorial Day Pow Wow and Rodeo, Lame Deer	27-28

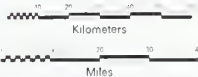
Black Powder Shoot, Roundup	27-29
Indian Rodeo Assn. Memorial Day Rodeo, Crow Agency	28
Northern Plains Indian Cowboy Classic, Busby	29
Food Fair, Downtown, Billings	31
JUNE	
Thursday Night at the Improv, Venture Theatre	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Urinetown, Venture Theatre, Billings	1-3
STOMP, ABT, Billings	2-4
Watchtower Convention, MetraPark, Billings	2-4
Motor Carriers Truck Rodeo, Holiday Inn, Billings	3
MTRA Team Roping, Huntley	3, 10, 24
Saturday Market, Roundup	3, 10, 17, 24
Farmers Market, Miles City	3, 10, 17, 24
Country Fair, Moss Mansion, Billings	3
Vintage Car Run, Richey	3
Gun Show, Shrine Auditorium, Billings	3-4
Charles Fritz - An Artist with the Corps of Discovery, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings	6/3-8/20
Car and Tractor Show, Touch A Truck, Baker	3
Chili Cook-off, Miles City	3
Powder River Buffalo Shoot, Broadus	3-4
Family Day, Vintage Car Run, Richey	3
Country Fun Day, Big Horn Museum, Tractor Show, Pitchfork Fondue, Auction, Hardin	4
Montana, An Artist's View, JailHouse Gallery, Hardin	6/5-7/29
Powder River Manor Jubilee, Broadus	8
Barbwire Convention, Miles City	9-11
Prairie Unique Fun Fly, Terry	9-11
Ghost Tours, Miles City	10
Hooked on Paddlefish Auction, Glendive	10
Strawberry Festival, Downtown, Billings	10
Annual Buzzard Days, Makoshika State Park, Glendive	10-11
SASS Cowboy Mounted Shoot, Garryowen	10-11
Pioneer Days, Range Riders Museum, Miles City	11
Greasy Grass Shoot, 7th Ranch, Garryowen	11
Food Fair, Downtown Billings	14, 28
Alive After Five, Downtown, Billings	15, 22, 29
Gregory Wilhelmi Paintings, Art Museum, Billings	6/15-9/3
Quigley Shoot & Crazy Days, Forsyth	16-18
Community Rummage Sale, Roundup	16-17
Little Levi Rodeo, Broadus	17
Demolition Derby, Hardin	17
MTRA Bob Craig Memorial Team Roping, Huntley	17-18
Mon-Dak Football Game, Miles City	17
Yellowstone Valley Kennel Club, MetraPark, Billings	20-22
Little Bighorn Days, Hardin	21-25
1876 Grand Ball, Hardin	22
Champions on Ice, MetraPark, Billings	22-26
Bull-A-Rama, Fairgrounds, Hardin	23
Badlands Drifters Car Club Show, Glendive	23-24
Colstrip Days, Colstrip	23-25
Custer's Last Stand Reenactment, Hardin	23-25
Battle of the Little Bighorn Reenactment, Crow Agency	23-25
Little Bighorn Days Grand Parade, Hardin	24
Montana State Chili Cook-Off, Downtown, Billings	24
MT Trappers Convention, Miles City	24-25
Unknown Soldiers Ceremony, Garryowen	25
Crow Native Days Rodeo, Crow Agency	25
Youth Rodeo, Ekalaka	29
Harley Owners Group Convention, MetraPark, Billings	30-7/1
Lewis & Clark Discovering Paintings by Frank Hagel, Custer County Art and Heritage Center, Miles City	6/30-8/27
JULY	
Farmers Market, Miles City	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Crow Lifeways Programs, Chief Plenty Coups State Park, Pryor1, 8, 15, 22, 29	
Northern Cheyenne Celebration, Lame Deer	1-4
Valley of the Chiefs Pow Wow, Crow Agency	1-4
Traveling Art Collection, SHAC, Colstrip	1-31
Valley of the Chiefs Rodeo, Lodge Grass	3-4
Roundup Independence Days Extravaganza, Theater, Concert, Parade, and Fireworks, Roundup	2-4
Laurel Jaycee Street Dance, Laurel	3
Terry Roping Club Amateur Rodeo, Terry	4
Fireworks, Miles City	4
Fallon County Days and Fireworks, Baker	4
Fireworks Display, Forsyth	4
Freedom Run, Rodeo, and Parade, Broadus	4
Show and Fireworks, Hardin	4
St. Xavier Rodeo, Hardin	4
Roping Club Amateur Rodeo, Terry	4
Fireworks, Miles City	4
Chief Joseph Run, Parade, Montana's Largest Fireworks, Laurel	4
Parade and Barbecue, Hysham	4
Independence Day Parade, Bump n Run, Glendive	4
Bill Newhouse Legion Baseball Tourney, Miles City	4-9
Alive After Five, Downtown Billings	6, 13, 20, 27
Yellowstone Art Museum's Summerfair Arts and Crafts Festival, North	

Park, Billings	8-9
Cowboy Shoot, Roundup	8-10
MTRA Team Roping, Huntley	8, 22
Greasy Grass Shoot, 7th Ranch, Garryowen	9
Food Fair, Downtown Billings	12, 26
Oil Field Days, Baker	14
Cowboy Mounted Shoot, Roundup	14-16
Big Sky Games Parade of Athletes Opening Ceremony, Billings	14
Big Sky Games Finals, Billings	14-16
Farmers Market, Downtown, Billings	15, 22, 29
Hotel California Concert, Baker	15
Homesteader Days Fireworks, Parade, Contests, Huntley	15-16
Annual Richey Rodeo, Richey	16
Clark on the Yellowstone Ice Cream Social, Moss Mansion, Billings ..	16
Farmers Market, Laurel	19, 26
Rosebud/Treasure County Fair, Forsyth	20-23
Lewis and Clark Heritage Days, Firemens Park, Laurel	21-22
Lewis & Clark Celebration, Downtown, Billings	21
County and 4-H Fair, Roundup	21-22
Reno Cowboys Championship Rodeo, Crow Agency	22
Author Ivan Doig, ABT, Billings	22
Dedication of Pompeys Pillar National Monument Interpretive Center, I-94 Exit 23	22
National Lewis and Clark Signature Event, Clark on the Yellowstone, and Corps of Discovery II, Pompeys Pillar National Monument ..	22-25
High Plains BookFest, Citywide, Billings	22-25
Powder River Cattle Drive, Broadus	23-29
Big Horn District Indian Rodeo, Crow Agency	23
Crazy Days, Miles City	23
Pops Music at Moss Mansion, Billings	28
MTRA Team Roping, Forsyth	28-30
Yippee! Bullarama, Terry	29
Yippee! Chili Cook Off, Street Dance, Terry	29
American Legion Youth Rodeo, Ekalaka	29
Open Rodeo, Ingomar	29
Todd Harris Softball Memorial, Broadus	29-30
Clark on the Lower Yellowstone, Corps of Discovery II, Heritage Days, Miles City	7/30-8/3
Clark Was Here! Days, Terry	31
AUGUST	
Clark on the Lower Yellowstone, Corps of Discovery II, Heritage Days, Miles City	1-3
Traveling Art Collection, SHAC, Colstrip	1-31
Youth Fair, Hardin	2-5
Farmers Market, Laurel	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Wednesday Farmers Market, Billings	2, 9, 16, 23
Big Sky Balloon Fest, Billings	3-6
Alive After Five, Downtown Billings	3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Crow and Cheyenne Art, JailHouse Gallery, Hardin	8/3-9/30
Grand Finale Period Dress Ball for Lewis and Clark, Miles City	3
Bud Williams Roping, Broadus	4-6
Art Walk, Downtown Billings	4
Red Lodge Blue Grass Festival, Billings	4-6
Crow Traditional Lifeways Programs, Chief Plenty Coups State Park, Pryor	5, 12
Farmers Market, Miles City	5, 12, 19, 26



Explorers arrive in authentic bull boat during Clark Day activities at Pompeys Pillar. Larry Tanglen Photo

Map Legend



CITIES & TOWNS		State Capital
County Seat	City or Town	Population
○	Population	Name
○	Under 50	Edy
○	50 - 1,000	Enclave
○	1,000 - 2,500	Baker
○	2,500 - 10,000	Libby
○	10,000 - 25,000	Havre
○	Over 25,000	Missoula

INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS	
—	Interstate Route
—	Full Access Interchange
—	Partial Access Interchange
—	No Access

PRINCIPAL HIGHWAYS	
—	Multi-lane
—	Two Lanes Paved

OTHER HIGHWAYS	
—	Two Lanes Paved
—	Gravel
—	Unsurfaced (Inquire Locally)

ROUTE MARKERS

—	Interstate
—	U.S. Route
—	State or Provincial Route
—	Other Route
—	Lewis & Clark Trail
—	Nex Perce Trail

BOUNDARIES

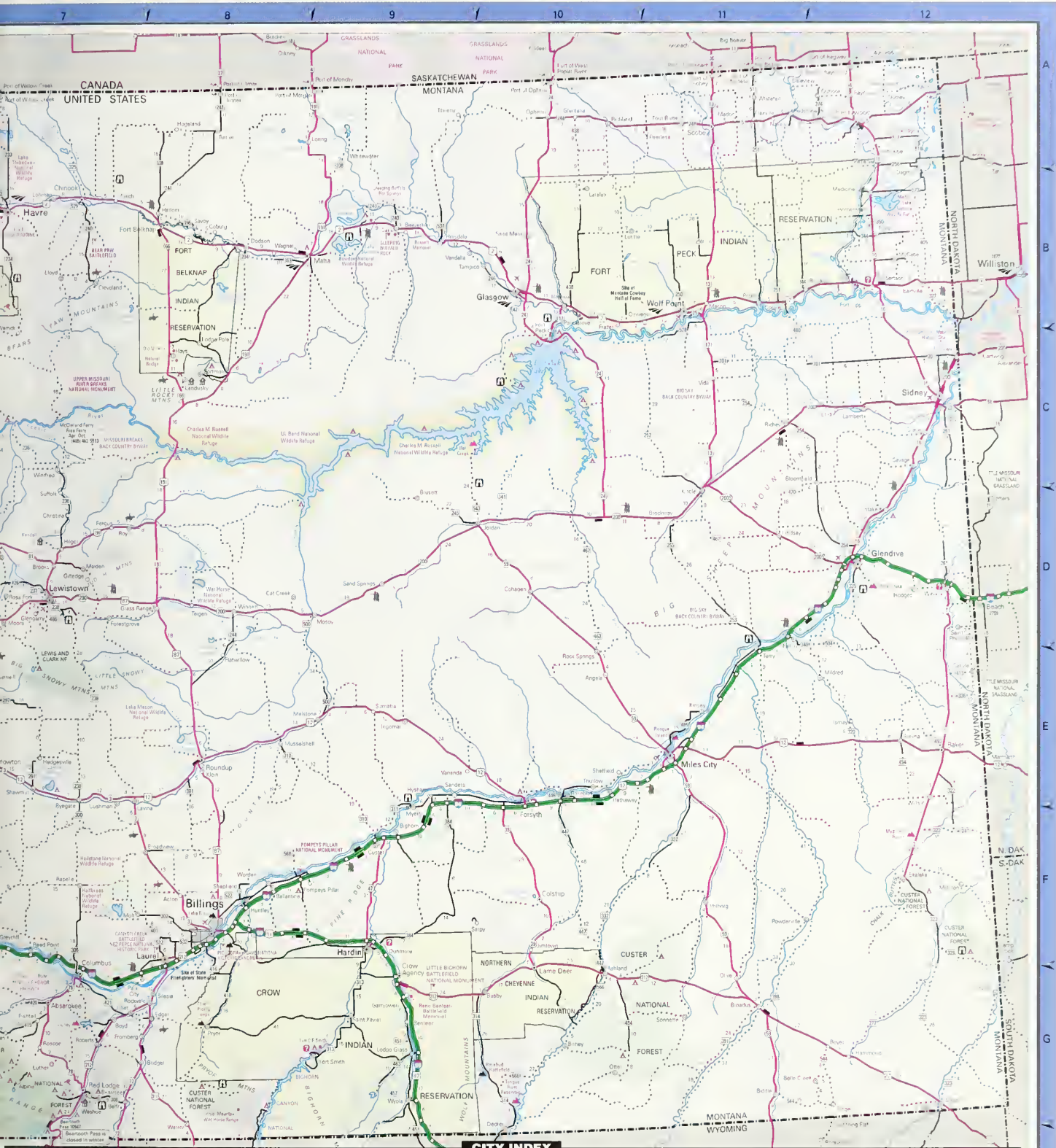
—	State
—	Reservation
—	Continental Divide
—	Wilderness Area
—	National Forest
—	Wildlife Refuge
—	National Park / Rec Area
—	National Monument Area

MISCELLANEOUS

—	Mileage Between Interchanges, Intersections and Towns
—	ADA Accessible Rest Areas
—	Parking Area - Limited Rest Area
—	Port of Entry
—	Airports - Commercial, Military
—	State Parks - Wildlife Viewing Site
—	Public Campsites - Minimum of 5 sites
—	Amtrak Station
—	Ghost Towns
—	Ski Areas
—	Visitor Information
—	Wildlife Viewing Site
—	National Historic Site
—	Point of Interest

For a free copy of the Official Montana Highway Map (35" x 18"), call 800-VISIT MT (800-847-4868).

Yellowstone National Park is open year-round. During the winter season, only the North Entrance at Gardiner is open to vehicles. Call (307) 344-7391 for opening dates, road conditions and for bicycle travel.



2006 Custer Country Calendar



Rivers in Custer Country provide year-round recreation.

Jeff Welsch Photo

Farmers Market, Hardin	5, 12, 19, 26
Farmers Market, Billings	5, 12, 19, 26
Michael Haykin Paintings, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings	Aug.-Dec.
Archery Shoot, Broadus	7
Food Fair, Downtown Billings	9, 23
Powder River County Fair and Let 'er Buck Rodeo, Broadus	10-12
Dawson County Fair & Rodeo, Glendive	10-13
Days of 85 Rodeo, Horse Show, Parade, Festivities, Ekalaka	10-13
Quilt and Art Show, Ekalaka	10-13
Chokecherry Festival, Broadus	11-12
Blues Festival, Downtown, Billings	11-13
MontanaFair, MetraPark, Billings	11-19
Duck Days Festival, Forsyth	12
MTRA Team Roping, Huntley	12
Big Horn River Raft Races, Hardin	13
Greasy Grass Shoot, 7th Ranch, Garryowen	13
Fallon County Fair, Baker	17-20
Prairie County Fair, Terry	17-20
Crow Indian Fair and Rodeo, Crow Agency	17-20
MTRA Derek Johnson Memorial Team Roping, Huntley	18-20
Iron Man Contest, Broadus	19
Cowboy Mounted Shooting, Laurel	19-20
Roundup Cattle Drive, Roundup	19-25
Threshing Bee, Huntley	19-20
Eastern Montana Fair, Miles City	24-27
Mighty Few Stampede and Rodeo, Wyola	26
Pre-Labor Day Roping and Dance, Custer	26-27
Wibaux County Fair, Rodeo, Parade, Night Show, Wibaux	25-27
Fiddlers Jamboree, Hardin	27
Chance & Tori Franklin Rodeo, Broadus	27-28
Demolition Derby, Miles City	27

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Pow Wow, Ashland	1-4
Burn the Point, Downtown, Billings	1-2
Clint McRae Art Show, SHAC, Colstrip	1-30
Futurity Horse Sale, Quarter Horse Sale, Broadus	2-3
Grid Iron Classic, Miles City	2
Farmers Market, Miles City	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Farmers Market, Billings	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Farmers Market, Hardin	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
MTRA Team Roping Finals, Huntley	2-4
Fallon Harvest Festival, Terry	3
Farmers Market, Laurel	6, 13, 20, 27
Home Improvement Show, MetraPark, Billings	7-10
Gun Show, Holiday Inn Trade Center, Billings	8-10
Medicine Rocks Black Powder Shoot, Ekalaka	9-10
Puptown Round Robin Roping, Ekalaka	9-10
Antique Show, MetraPark, Billings	9-10
Greasy Grass Shoot, 7th Ranch, Garryowen	10
Bell Street Bridge Day, Glendive	11
Ram Sale, Miles City	14
Blue Grass Festival, Miles City	15-17
Gun Show, MetraPark	15-17
Classic Car Show, Miles City	16
Stitch & Chatter Quilt Show, Broadus	16
Northern Plains Indian Rodeo Regional Finals, Crow Agency	16-17
Native American Day, Ashland, Crow Agency, Pryor	22
Oktoberfest, Laurel	29-30
Saturday Live Citywide Celebration, Pioneer Park, Billings	30

31st Annual Art Auction Exhibit, Custer County Art and Heritage Center, Miles City 30-31

OCTOBER

Stacy Turkey Shoot, Broadus	1
Native Perspectives, SHAC, Colstrip	1-31
Thursday Night at the Improv, Venture Theatre, Billings	5, 12, 19, 26
Art Walk, Downtown Billings	6
Farmers Market, Billings	7
Firemens Pancake and Sausage Feed, Plevna	7
Quilted Wonders, Custer County Art and Heritage Center, Miles City	8-12
Food Bank Harvest Hoe Down, Hardin	9
Customer Appreciation Day, Baker	11
Harvestfest, Downtown, Billings	14
Craft Show Pumpkin Patch, Laurel	14-15
Food Bank Harvest Hoe Down, Hardin	9
NILE Pro Rodeo and Livestock Show, MetraPark, Billings	18-21
Little Guy Football Superbowl, Miles City	21
Moonlight Madness, Forsyth	26
Madama Butterfly, ABT, Billings	27-29
Mystery at the Moss Mansion, Billings	27-29
Yellowstone Art Museum Beaux Arts Ball, Depot, Billings	28
Haunted House, Miles City	28-29
PAL Pumpkin Alley & Haunted House, Terry	31

NOVEMBER

Native Perspectives, SHAC, Colstrip	1-30
Marketplace Magic, MetraPark, Billings	2-5
PR Manor Harvest Luncheon, Broadus	7
Student Veterans Day Parade, Terry	10
Veterans Day Pow Wow, Lame Deer	11-12
Holiday Food Festival, MetraPark, Billings	17-19
Appreciation Day and Bazaar, Ekalaka	18
Ceramist Frances Senska, Custer County Art & Heritage Center Miles City	11/19-12/31
Holiday Parade, Downtown, Billings	24
Southern Classic Basketball Tournament, MetraPark, Billings	24-25
Parade of Lights, Forsyth	24
Holiday Light Parade, Glendive	24
AAUW Christmas Market, Miles City	24-25

DECEMBER

Smithsonian Exhibit Key Ingredients America by Food, SHAC, Colstrip	1-31
Festival of Trees, MetraPark, Billings	1-3
Gun Show, Holiday Inn Trade Center, Billings	1-3
Art Walk, Downtown Billings	1
Christmas Stroll, Downtown, Billings	1
Christmas Stroll and Tree Lighting, Miles City	1
Christmas Stroll, Roundup	2
Border Wars Basketball, MetraPark, Billings	2
Christmas to Remember, Laurel	3
Parade of Lights, Hysham	4
Light Parade, Terry	5
Christmas Stroll, Baker	6
Parade of Lights, Broadus	6
Chase Hawks Memorial Rodeo, MetraPark, Billings	16



Cowboy Mounted Shooter Dr. Mike Wheeler of Laurel blasts his target while reining his trained horse Bullet within range.

Milt Wester Photo

Statewide Calendar:

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www.visitmt.com
1-800-847-4868





Trails to Destiny

Custer's Last March

The most renowned historic site in all of Montana's Custer Country is the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (formerly Custer Battlefield). The preserved battlefield, monument, and cemetery are lasting symbols of one of the most significant battles fought in the West.

The battle has been referred to as "Custer's Last Stand," "Sitting Bull's War," and the "Sioux War of 1876."

To understand the circumstances responsible for this bloody clash of June 25, 1876, requires a detailed explanation of events. Many books have been written on the battle history. Others deal with the conjectures and philosophies that attempt to sort out the facts of the battle where all 210 cavalrymen died. Not one lived to tell the tale. In fact, only one of their horses, Comanche, survived. Because of the pressure of the government on their lifestyles, Indians involved in the battle refused to tell the details. For books or information, contact Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Visitor Center, Crow Agency, MT 59022, phone (406) 638-2621.

The Indian Trail

An event on March 17, 1876, gave unmistakable notice to the Indians that the soldiers meant war if the Indians did not move onto the reservations. Under the command of Gen. George Crook, Col. Joseph J. Reynolds and six companies of cavalry attacked an Indian camp on the Powder River on that cold morning. Surprised Indians rallied and counterattacked. Reynolds

fell back to the main column. Crook and his command returned to Fort Fetterman for two months.

The victorious Indian village consisted of about a hundred lodges of Ogalalas, Miniconjous, and Cheyennes. After the soldiers withdrew, the warriors reclaimed their village and moved downstream, then over to the East Fork of the Little Powder River to unite with Crazy Horse.

The combined bands then set forth to find Sitting Bull, who was camped about 60 miles farther north on another branch of the Powder River. Little by little, as word of the war spread from one camp to another, the Indians came together for self-defense. In the spring, their kinsmen from the agencies joined them.

By early June they had reached a strength of about 400 lodges—about 3,000 people, including about 800 warriors.

On June 18 the Indians struck camp, journeyed down Reno Creek to the Little Bighorn, then turned south up the valley and pitched their tepees. Here, a short distance above the mouth of Reno Creek, they stayed six days. Other Indians joined them here, increasing their numbers to 1,000 lodges, 7,000 people, and 2,000 warriors.

Their need for food would foil battle tactics, for on June 24, though the tribal leaders had planned a movement farther up the Little Bighorn, when antelope were spotted, the Indian people moved the village northward, back down the Little Bighorn in the direction from which they had come. When the sun rose June 25, 1876, the Indians

were closer than Custer expected to find them.

The Custer Trail

On May 17, 1876, about 956 officers and men of the U.S. Army marched westward out of Fort Abraham Lincoln, south of what is now Mandan, North Dakota. They were under orders to subjugate Sioux and Cheyenne Indians who refused to stay within their reservations. The commander of the expedition was Gen. Alfred H. Terry. One of his staff officers was Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, a Civil War hero.

The troops entered present day Montana just south of where Wibaux is now located, and moved along the Yellowstone River to the mouth of the Tongue River, then progressed up the Yellowstone River to camp a few miles east of Rosebud Creek.



Sitting Bull, Leader of the Sioux
Little Bighorn Battlefield National
Monument Archives Photo



Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer.
Little Bighorn Battlefield National
Monument Archives Photo

One column, led by Gen. George Crook, was attacked and forced to turn back at the six-hour Battle of the Rosebud on June 17. Maj. Marcus Reno had been only 40 miles from the incident when it occurred.

The other two columns, under Col. John Gibbon and Terry, joined on the Yellowstone River at the mouth of the Rosebud River. From here, Terry laid plans to locate the Indians, then believed to be in the Little Bighorn Valley. Bent over a map in the cabin of the Far West steamer, he formulated orders. Taking Gibbon's column up on the Yellowstone to approach the valley from the north, Terry sent Custer and the 7th Cavalry on a wide sweep to the south to approach it from the opposite direction. The strategy was to catch the Indians between the two forces.

Before setting out, the 7th Cavalry passed in review before their leaders: 31 officers, 566 enlisted men, 35 Indian scouts, a dozen packers, guides and other employees. Custer's mission was to march up the Rosebud following the Indian trail. If it turned to the Little Bighorn, he was still to continue up the Rosebud before swinging west to the upper reaches of the Little Bighorn.

His troops covered 12 miles the afternoon of the first day, 30 miles each of the next two days. A marker between Colstrip and Lame Deer points out one of the encampments. On June 23 they struck an Indian trail that Major Reno had already examined. On the morning of the 24th, they paused at the site where the Sioux had staged a sun dance earlier in the month. Suddenly the trail turned fresh. The scouts said the Indians were

as near as 20 miles away.

At the noon stop, scouting reports said that the Indians were on the lower Little Bighorn. Custer decided to cut across there to get the Sioux before they scattered and got away. His troops marched out at midnight. Early the next morning, two parties of Sioux were spotted. Fearing that they would warn and disperse the Indians, Custer decided to strike as soon as possible. Five troops went with him, three each with Reno and Capt. Frederick Benteen.

The movements of the Custer, Reno, and Benteen commands are well detailed at the national monument Visitor Center and in the official "Little Bighorn Battlefield" National Park Handbook.

When the dust settled on June 25, Custer's 210 cavalymen had died. Reno's and Benteen's troops fought on, east of the last stand site.

On June 27 the Far West anchored at the confluence of the Little Bighorn and the Bighorn Rivers near present day Hardin. On the 28th, the survivors of the Reno/Benteen troops were taken to the steamer. On the 30th, they started down river with the survivors and Capt. Keogh's horse, Comanche.

Near present day Terry, Montana, is one of Custer's campsites, where his troops carved their names on Sheridan Butte along the Yellowstone River. The names are still visible to adventurers who hike to see them. The Far West docked near Terry, and graves mark the Reno/Benteen troops who died of battle wounds and were buried when the steamer docked.

The Nez Perce Trail

In 1877 a large group of non-treaty Nez Perce Indians passed through the Custer Country Region, led by chiefs White Bird, Looking Glass, Tu-huul-huul-hutsiut, Lean Elk, Husis-kute and Joseph. The Nez Perce had fled their homeland in Eastern Washington in the spring of 1877, rather than be forced to move onto a reservation as ordered by the U.S. government.

In their flight from northern Oregon, the band of about 800 people, including 125 warriors, carried by 2,000 horses (mainly Appaloosa), traveled over 1,700 miles. They fled and fought skirmishes first east across Idaho, then south through Idaho, across Yellowstone Park, and down the Clark's Fork River.

Pursuing them along the Clark's

Fork trail was Colonel Samuel D. Sturgis. Reaching The Yellowstone River near present-day Laurel at approximately 10 a.m., September 13, 1877, Sturgis' command, fatigued from a horrific ride the day before down the Clark's Fork River, swam their horses across the Yellowstone.

Sturgis had been attempting to catch up with and capture the "hostiles" since August 12. By now, Sturgis, his men, and especially their horses were tired. He and his troops had barely missed the Nez Perce in the Clark's Fork Canyon and then rode over 60 miles in a rain storm trying to catch up with the Indians. It seemed time to give up.

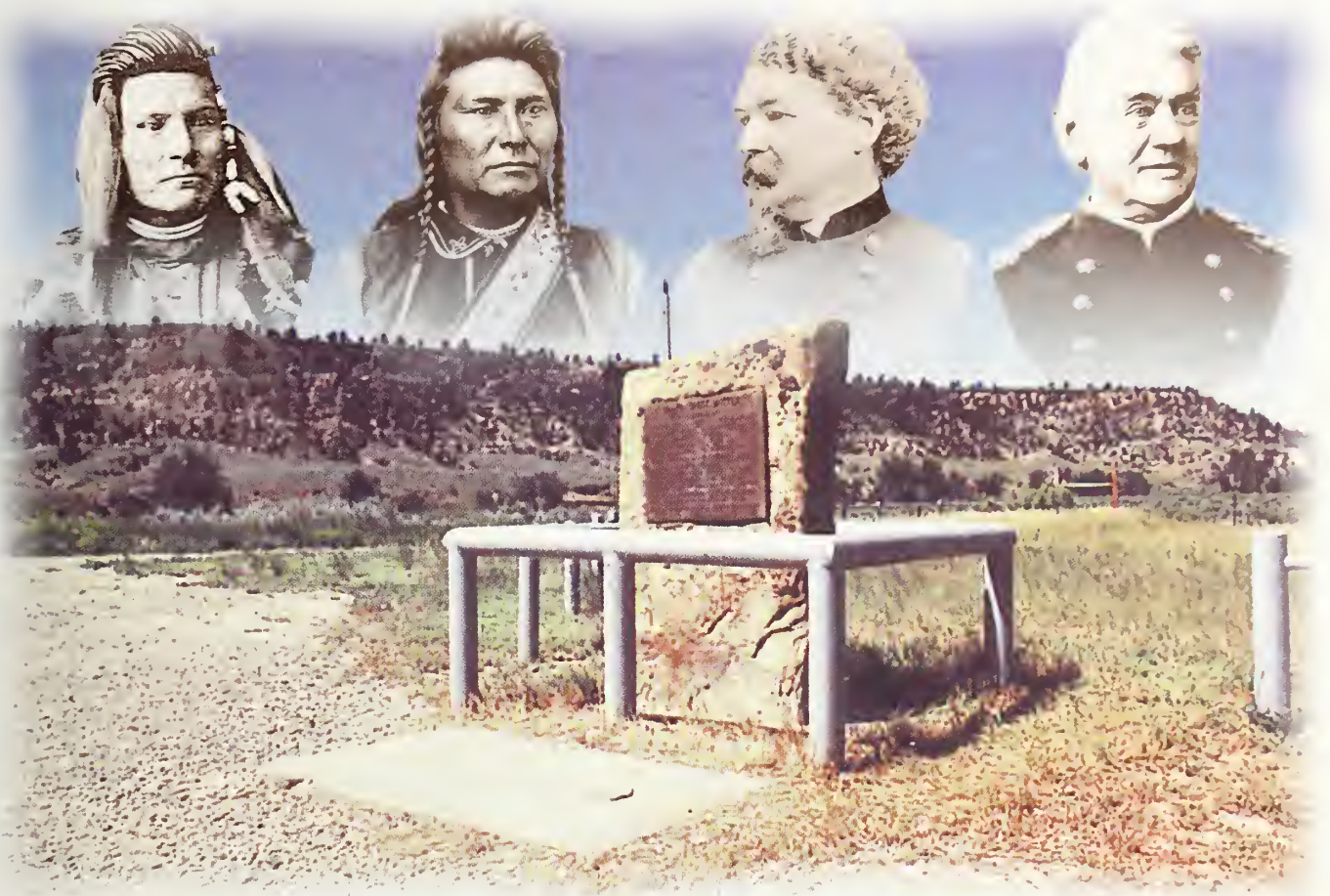
In the meantime, the Nez Perce had to make a decision. Unable to find sanctuary with the Crow Indians who had allied with the U.S. Government, escaping to Canada, out of reach of U.S. jurisdiction, seemed like a good possibility. So they began packing up their camp along the Yellowstone and prepared to head north.

The Nez Perce and Sturgis' command were only a few miles apart. Nez Perce chiefs were just as surprised by the presence of soldiers as Sturgis was that the Indian village was just ahead. When a Crow scout rode up to tell him the Nez Perce were downstream, Sturgis ordered his command to trot. Upon seeing hundreds of soldiers, the Nez Perce rushed toward the safety of the bluffs of Canyon Creek.

The fight was on!

When he discovered that the Indians were heading for the timbered canyon where Canyon Creek poured out onto the prairie, Sturgis turned his troops straight north. His intent was to cut the Nez Perce advancement before they reached the safety of the heavily timbered canyon.

The troops headed for the high plateau north of where the Laurel airport exists today. Major Lewis Merrill led the attack toward Canyon Creek. As they reached the plateau around noon, they drew the first fire of the day from Indian marksmen. At this point, the cavalymen dismounted and moved across the plateau, shooting at the Indians who returned fire from ravines below. Initially, Merrill thought his troops were on the south side of the canyon of Canyon Creek. When he reached the north end of the plateau, Merrill discovered that his forces were at least 3 miles from the



Memories of the warriors who battled at Canyon Creek fill the air above the stone monument that marks what happened here 126 years ago. From left, Yellow Bull, Joseph, Colonel Samuel Sturgis, and Captain Frederick Benteen. Photo by Milton Wester, graphic by Stacey Osborne.

south entrance to the canyon, known today as Horse Cache (or Calamity Jane) Butte.

The only hope was to advance in an attempt to prevent the column of Nez Perce from reaching the mouth of the canyon and safety. Merrill's troops continued north on foot. When Sturgis reached the plateau, he realized that it would be difficult, at best, to stop the Indians from reaching the canyon. He then turned his attention to the large Nez Perce horse herd and dispatched Captain Frederick Benteen to attempt to cut off as many animals as possible. Benteen's orders were to ride back west and then north toward Horse Cache Butte.

When Benteen reached the base of Horse Cache Butte, the Nez Perce began firing their rifles and hit some of his cavalymen as they advanced past the butte.

Merrill's men finally arrived at the canyon on foot where they met stiff resistance from the Indians. The Nez Perce had gained the high ground and were effective in keeping the soldiers pinned down below. Merrill's com-

mand charged into the canyon, but was largely ineffective because the Indians were so well hidden in the rocks and trees. Eventually, the soldiers retreated to the mouth of the canyon near where the present-day monument stands commemorating the battle. There, Sturgis had ordered a hospital to be set up. The battle, which had broken out close to noon, was over at approximately 5 pm. The Nez Perce escaped through the timbered coulees of Canyon Creek and traveled north to camp for the night, somewhere near present-day Molt. The Nez Perce, though they won the day, lost a significant number of their horses in this battle.

Nez Perce leaders later acknowledged that, though most of the traveling camp (and horse herd) had made it to safety, the loss of the horses hurt their ability to travel as fast as they had earlier. Therefore, Sturgis was unable to capture the Nez Perce at Canyon Creek, in part because his horses were completely spent. But, by delaying the Nez Perce and by allowing the Indian horses to be captured,

he definitely slowed the tribe's advance — something that ultimately resulted in their capture at Bear's Paw later that year.

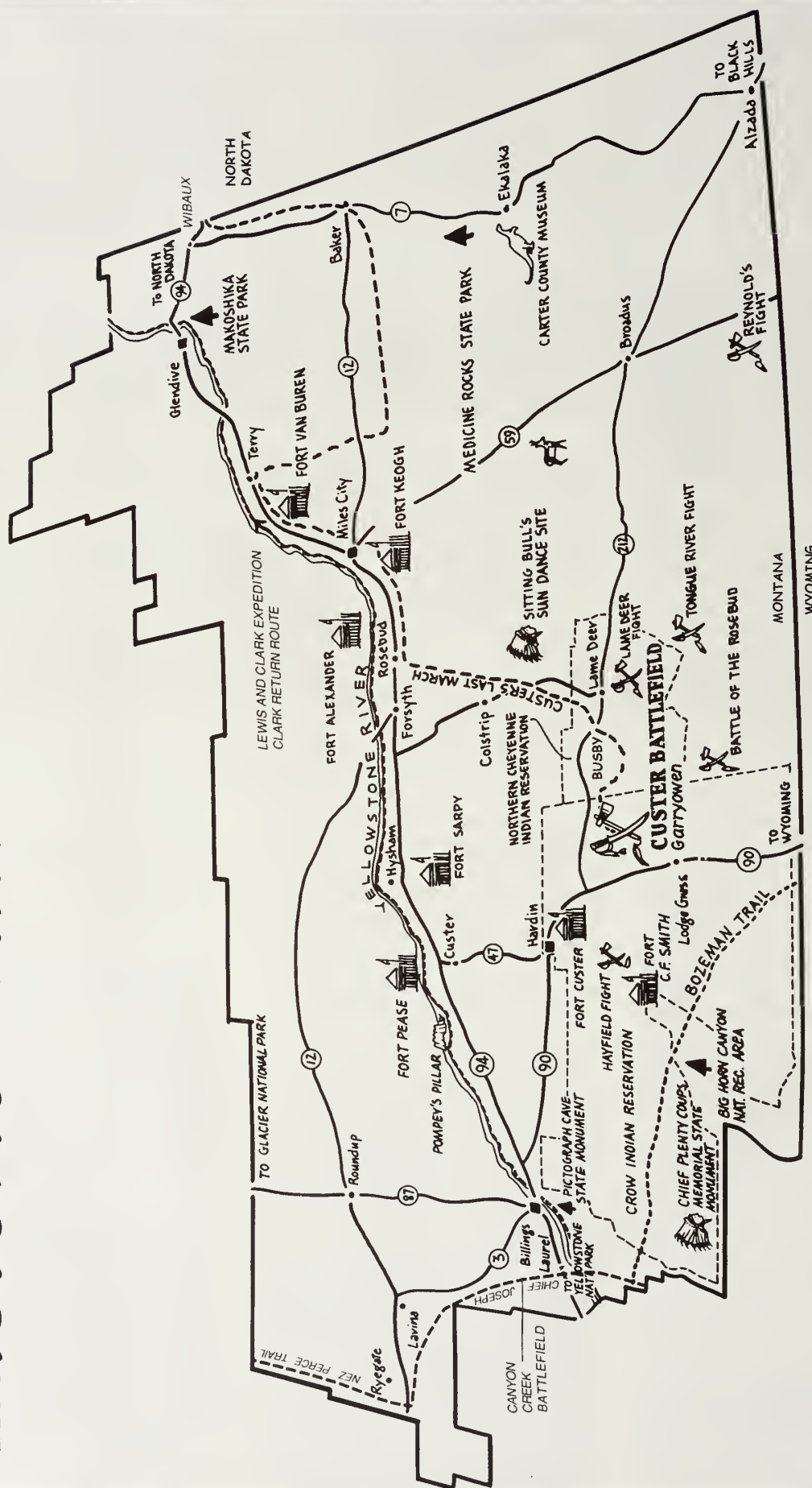
Eventually, the Nez Perce band moved to a camp 30 miles south of the Canadian border, where the command of General Miles, later joined by General Howard, surrounded them. On October 5, 1877, Chief Joseph gave his moving speech: "Hear me, my chiefs. I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

A statue of the famous chief stands in the park in downtown Laurel.

A Laurel organization, The Friends of Canyon Creek, has secured property and built a wayside interpretive shelter near the mouth of the Canyon Creek canyon, approximately 7 miles north of Laurel. With the help of Yellowstone County and the National Park Service, Friends of Canyon Creek secured funding to build the visitor site in an area where much of the conflict took place.

Interpretive panels at the site tell the story of the battle.

Historic Trails



The name of Custer Battlefield was changed by Congress to
 "The Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument" in 1991.
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The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Photo courtesy of Custer's Last Stand Reenactment Committee

Hardin, Where Legends Live

Gateway to the Battlefield and the Bighorn River

Hardin is the heart of Custer Country. Custer meets his demise here every year. Civilized fun and comforts include a pioneer museum, an art gallery, trading posts, a variety of interesting shops, a kiddie playground, an indoor swimming pool and exercise rooms, and a golf course.

All the Comforts

Accommodations: Motels, campgrounds, and restaurants will keep you comfortable while you explore the Little Bighorn Battlefield and Custer National Cemetery, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Yellowtail Dam, and the Bighorn River. Bed and breakfast facilities offer turn-of-the-century atmosphere in restored buildings from the original town of Hardin.

Chamber of Commerce Hospitality: Besides being the home of Custer's Last Stand

Reenactment and Little Big Horn Days, Hardin has other events, from rodeos and parades to street dances, from art and craft shows to quilt shows. See the calendar of events in this section, or call the Chamber of Commerce office for details. (406) 665-1672.

Looking Back: Historians say the town was named for Samuel H. Hardin, a cattle man from Wyoming who leased tracts of land on the Crow Reservation to range his cattle. Local industry now includes farming and ranching, surface coal mining, fishing and recreational opportunities.

Crops and Critters: You'll see sugar beets, corn, wheat, and barley in the fields. The raising of beef cattle, sheep, hogs, and quarter horses is part of the livestock economic picture.

Continued on Page 73

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Custer's Last Stand Reenactment:

The most controversial battle in American history is fought again each June at one of Custer Country's biggest annual attractions - the world-famous Custer's Last Stand Reenactment, presented by Hardin Chamber of Commerce. This year marks the 130th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Reenactors represent Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors. Under the leadership of Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and Gall, they fight George Armstrong Custer's Seventh Cavalry troopers four times, June 23-25, 2006, the weekend closest to the anniversary of the original June 25, 1876, conflict.

The performances are at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, 1:30 and 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets cost \$16 for adults, and \$7 for children (5 and under free).

Spectators who arrive at the reenactment site early can visit with living history performers, who will set up camp to tell tales, show their wares and answer questions starting at 11 a.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The reenactment's script is based on Crow Tribal Elder, Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow's translation of oral and written Native American narratives beginning before Lewis and Clark's epic journey from 1803-1806.

The sweeping pageantry of high plains history is portrayed by over 250

participants, including descendants of the troopers, Indian warriors, and scouts involved in the original battle.

Listed as one of the "top 100 Events in America" by Destinations Magazine for six years, Custer's Last Stand Reenactment has been the focus of two A&E television productions and segments on CNN and BBC. Hollywood film crews shot the reenactment for the motion picture "Legend of Crazy Horse." Hundreds of journalists and producers from coast to coast in the US, Germany, Taiwan, France, England, Australia, and Canada have featured this event.

Historical figures move across the surrounding open plains toward the climactic battle. Audiences participate

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Edythe McCleary Photo

in the adventure with every sense, and experience history with a reality more powerful than any book, video, or computer multi-media can portray. One of the many visitors at the reenactment said, "It's like really being there...smack dab in the middle of history."

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nections to many related sources is available at the Custer's Last Stand Reenactment website, custerslast-stand.org.

Tickets are available online or write Custer's Last Stand Reenactment, P.O. Box 446, Hardin, MT 59034, 1-888-450-3577 or (406) 665-3577. Also for information and tickets contact Hardin Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture at (406) 665-1672, or you can send a fax to (406) 665-3577.

1876 Grand Ball

An 1876 Grand Ball is scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2006, at the Big Horn County Fairgrounds.

Participants and observers are swept

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Dancers glide in step at The Grand Ball.
Sandy Watts Photo

back in time by the authentic fashions, music, and dances of the late 1800s.

General and Mrs. Custer and Grand Ball participants, including children, will perform a demonstration of period dances and customs at 7:30 p.m. The presentation includes The Grand March precepted by Dance Master Nathan Wald. The observer's fee is \$5.

After gathering to honor Gen. George Armstrong Custer and his wife, Libbie, period-dressed dancers will begin the Grand March at 8:15 p.m.

Prof. R Alexander James and his distinguished ensemble will provide the dance music. Dancers may request

modern and old-fashioned sepia photographs. Hardin Rainbow Girls serve refreshments of the era — pie, lemonade, coffee, and ice water.

Anyone is welcome to participate, dressed in the proper attire. Contact the committee for requirements. Lessons are given at \$5 per person the Wednesday night before the ball.

Tickets to the ball are \$15 per person for period-dressed 1876 Grand Ball participants, available from the Hardin Chamber office (406) 665-1672 and from Kathy Stenerson at 665-2559. All major credit cards are accepted at 639-2219. grandball.org

CBHMA 53rd Annual Meeting

The Custer Battlefield Historical and Museum Association, formed 53 years ago, is an association based in Hardin, MT, whose members are dedicated to research, preservation, and education. Their focus is on the study of and dissemination of information about the Plains Indian Wars after the Civil War, especially the Battle of the Little Bighorn and its surrounding battlefield.

The CBHMA annual meeting begins June 23, 2006, with registration in the Bookroom at 5th Street and Center in Hardin. The Bookroom is open to the general public Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Many current and out-of-print books about the Indian Wars, the Civil War and the Battle of the Little Bighorn are on display and for sale. The annual auction is Thursday, featuring unique historical items, sold to benefit the association.

On June 25, the anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, the annual symposium will be held at the Hardin Middle School Auditorium at 9 a.m. It is open to the general public. The cost traditionally is around \$10. Speakers will discuss subjects related to the battle or to the societies or personalities

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involved in the Plains Indian Wars.

June 26, the highlight is the annual field trip to a battle-related site.

Experts will give presentations and hold question and answer sessions. Lunch is included in the cost. Non-members may register for a limited number of seats on the field trip.

The annual membership meeting is at the Battlefield on June 27, at 11 a.m. To join or to inquire about membership benefits contact the CBHMA at P.O. Box 902, Hardin, MT 59034 or cbhma.org.

Little Big Horn Days

Carnival, Western Wares: Little Big Horn Days activities open Wednesday, June 21, 2006. The festivities continue on Thursday with a full slate of events, including a historical book fair, quilt

show and authentic chuck wagon barbecue, wine and cheese social, and the 1876 Grand Ball.

Then, the Wild West Carnival runs from noon until midnight Thursday, and continues through the weekend.

Sellers offer wares downtown at a historical book fair, an arts and crafts fair, antique show, and concerts Friday through Sunday.

Parades and Food: Organizers invite all youngsters to participate in the Old West Youth Parade downtown at 11 a.m., on Friday, June 23.

Friday evening, head out to the Big Horn County Fairgrounds for the Bull-A-Rama, top bull riding contest, beginning at 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 24, begins with the Little Big Horn Days Parade through

downtown at 10 a.m., complete with Cavalry and Indians in full regalia. Vendor booths downtown include food concessions. Following the parade, everyone is welcome at the Scandinavian dinner at the American Lutheran Church until 7 p.m. A fee is charged.

Wake up to a Country Breakfast on Sunday and attend the non-denominational old time gospel service at 11 a.m. at the fairgrounds.

All events held outside Hardin are easily accessible from Third Street. The reenactment site is 6 miles to the west. The Big Horn County Museum is 1 mile east of Hardin at the Third Street Exit 497.

Western Experiences

Hardin and the surrounding area offer western experiences involving history and horses.

Team Roping: These events are held often at local ranches and at rodeos. And there are working ranches which offer horseback riding, fishing, local tours and sightseeing.

Fourth of July

Rodeo, Fireworks, Vittles, Talent: Rodeo chutes spew out riders on rough stock at the annual amateur Independence Day Rodeo in Hardin. The St. Xavier Rodeo Association signs up local and regional talent for a full day of entertainment.

Visitors are welcome at all events. Start with the pancake breakfast that the Hardin Kiwanis Club serves. Head to the rodeo at 1 p.m. Enjoy the talent show that follows the rodeo, and at

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dusk, "the bombs bursting in air" at the spectacular fireworks display hosted by the Hardin Area Chamber of Commerce.

Brush Strokes and Stitches

The JailHouse Gallery: Located at 218 N. Center, this gallery is committed to the education, exposure, and promotion of the heritage, arts, and artisans within Big Horn County, the Crow and Cheyenne Reservations and the surrounding area. Check the schedule of exhibits in the calendar at the end of this section. Call (406) 665-3239, or write JailHouse Gallery, 218 N. Center, Hardin, MT 59034. The gallery is open year-round, Mon.-Sat., 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Duck! You're Being Attacked: Don't miss the annual Quack Attack. This duck derby is a fun fund-raiser for the JailHouse Gallery. Call (406) 665-3239 for more details on how to get in on this action.

Quilt Shows: The Big Horn Quilters Club and the Undercover Gals Quilt Guild and the Friends of the Library collaborate to hold an annual mid-summer show. You can see their line-up at the library. The show includes a raffle drawing to own a quilt of your own. (406) 665-1757.

Bighorn River Raft Race: Hardin Chamber of Commerce is launching a new event August 13 this year ... on the river! The Bighorn River Raft Race begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Two Leggings Fishing Access site and ends at the Burton Farley Ranch 5 miles down river. Food and fun are promised at both locations. Call (406) 665-1672 for updates and details.

Museum and Visitor Center

Displays and Information: Big Horn County Historical Museum complex and State Visitor Center is located directly off I-90 Exit 497, or Exit 495 through downtown Hardin. It is 15 miles west of the famous battle of the Little Bighorn.

The museum complex consists of 20 historic structures, two equipment exhibit buildings and the main building. The 22-acre site, once a flourishing vegetable farm, was donated in 1979 to the Big Horn County Historical Society for a museum to be built. The farm house and barn are part of the original farm. The other historic buildings have been moved to the museum from various locations in Big Horn County.

As you walk through the buildings that make up the museum, you will see items that belonged to the first

Americans who roamed the high plains in search of the buffalo, items of traders and settlers who came in search of adventure, and items of early day homesteaders who toiled for a living by farming and raising livestock. All played an important role in this area's development.

Besides the historic buildings, there are exhibits of farm machinery and other turn-of-the century transportation equipment.

The main building includes a staffed visitor center that offers guests a wide array of local, state, and regional travel information, videos of area attractions, a book and gift shop, and exhibits.

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Big Horn County Museum. Donna Delp Photo

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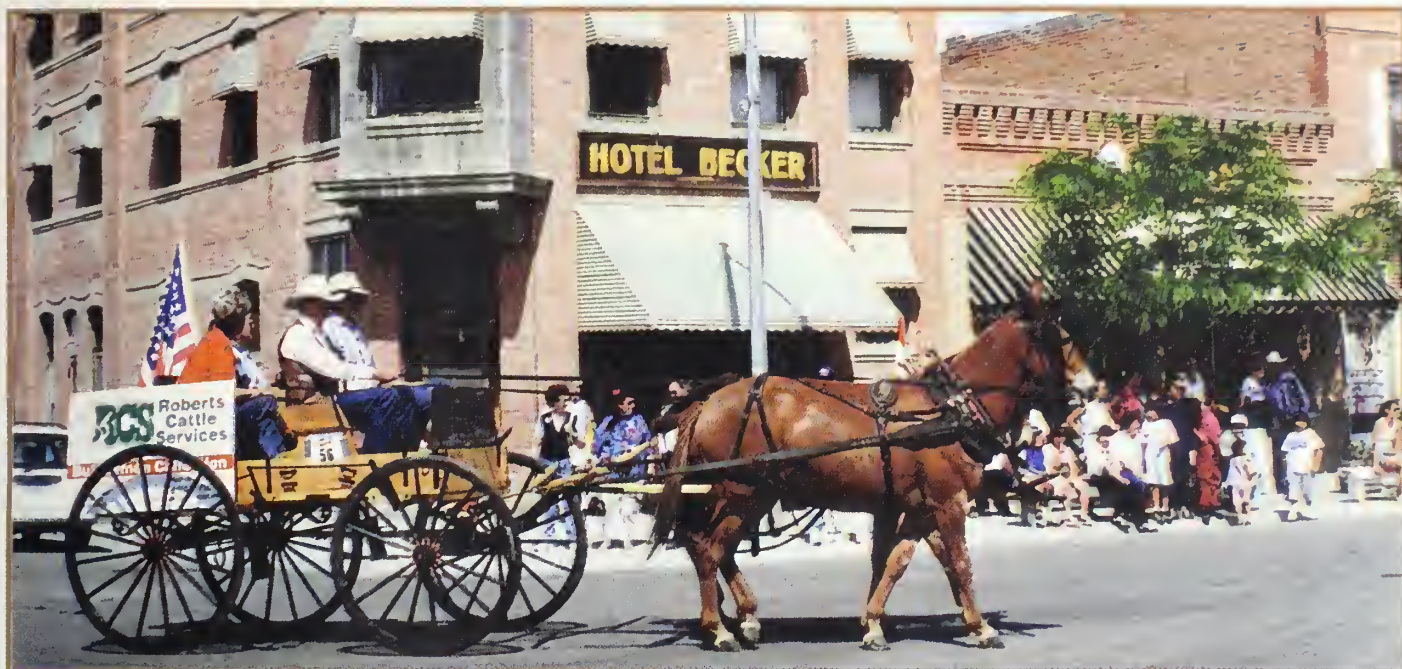
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Little Bighorn Days in Hardin features a parade down main street (Center Ave.). Special entries from far and wide roll past the crowds.
D. Delp Photo

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ing the spirit of the West alive by reliving the exciting era of the 1850s to 1920s. They wear period attire and use period guns, pistols, rifles, and shot-guns. Contests combine guns, accuracy, timing, safety, and history. Besides performing "shoot-outs" in the streets,

they provide safety education to youth and adults, put on seminars, shows, and hold cooking contests. SASS will hold several events in Hardin this year. For details, contact "Prairie Annie" at 7th ranch@historicwest.com.



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- ☆ Senior & other Discounts
- ☆ Winter Vehicle Plug-ins
- ☆ Free Horse Corrals



The action is hard riding, fast shooting and authentic at Custer's Last Stand Reenactment.
Photos courtesy of CLSR Committee

Welcome Travelers

Big Horn 

**HOMETOWN
PROUD**

Reese & Ray

Welcome You to Hardin, Montana

901 N. Center Avenue

(406) 665-1682

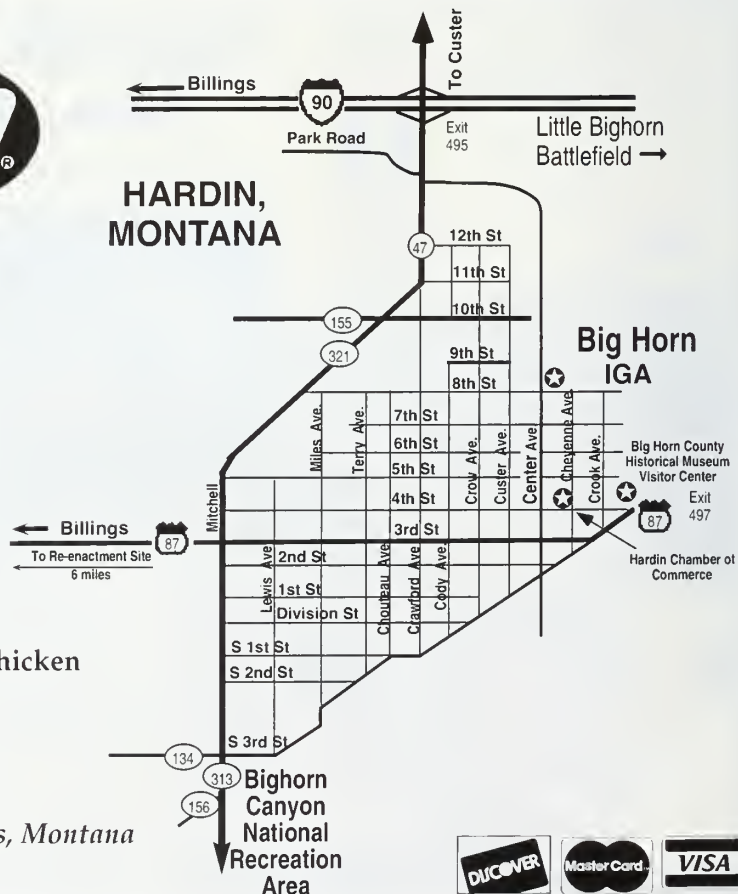
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- Deli Sandwiches & The Best Tasting Fried Chicken
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Also, Stop at

Little Horn  in Lodge Grass, Montana

(406) 639-2312





A thunderhead storm brews in the sky above at the same time a clash between the cavalry and the Indian tribes brews below.
Jim Schaefer Custer Country Photo

On the Waters

Far West: Just east of Hardin, where the Little Bighorn River joins the Bighorn, is the island site where the Far West sternwheeler boat anchored on June 27, 1876, to evacuate the wounded from the Reno and Benteen battles. It was the Far West that carried survivors with the story of Custer's defeat to the rest of the world.

Arapoosh Pond and Recreation

Park: This area is located one mile north of Hardin Exit 495 off Hwy. 47. The family park is at Arapoosh Fishing Access near the Bighorn River.

A six-foot-wide trail is an inviting path for hikers or cross-country skiers. The recreation park has picnic tables and self-contained bathrooms. Alcohol is prohibited. Driving is allowed to the picnic tables. No motorized vehicles

may use the north side of the pond.

Fishermen in non-motorized boats or canoes will like the small-mouth bass action, which should be good in summer and in winter, since aerators keep the pond from freezing.

Summer hours are early morning to 9 p.m. Overnight camping is not allowed.

2006 in Hardin

Feb.: Student Art Show, Grades K-5,
JailHouse Gallery 1-24

March: Student Art Show, Grades 6-8,
JailHouse Gallery 1-31
April: Student Art Show, High School
Students, JailHouse Gallery 6-28
Fiddler's Jamboree, Fairgrounds.....23
May: Ernestine Rader: A Prospective,
JailHouse Gallery 4-31
June: Montana - An Artist's View
JailHouse Gallery 6/5-7/29

Additional HARDIN, MONTANA Businesses & Services

Big Horn Insurance
224 No. Center Street, Hardin
406-665-3124

Timothy J. Murphy, DDS
339 West 3rd Street, Hardin
(406) 665-3300

Johnson Insurance
P.O. Box 928, 210 W. 2nd St., Hardin
(406) 665-2700

Four Aces Lounge & Casino
8 West 3rd. St., Hardin
(406) 665-1038



Bill's Auto Parts, Inc.

Phone: (406) 665-1778
214 N. Crow · Hardin, MT 59034

Mike Stenerson: (406) 665-3682
John Harder: (406) 665-3192



Fort Custer General Store

"Hardin's most unique gift shop"

Stroll through 2 levels

Fort Custer Artifacts, Antiques, Crafts,
Souvenirs, Montana Made Products,
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Scrapbooking Supplies

Hours: 9 am – 5:30 pm, Mon.-Sat.
206 North Center Avenue
Hardin, MT 59034
(406) 665-2078



Drifting and casting on the Bighorn River. Karen Simpson Photo

Big Horn and Under Cover Gals Quilters
Association Quilt Show, Library .15-July 15
Demolition Derby 17
Little Big Horn Days.....21-25
Grand Ball Lessons, BHCHM.....21
1876 Grand Ball, BHCHM.....22
Bull-A-Rama, Fairgrounds 23
Art, Craft, Book Fair, Downtown.....23-25
Custer's Last Stand Reenactment.....23-25

Grand Parade 24
Battle Symposium, Middle School 24
July: Show and Fireworks 4
St. Xavier Rodeo, Hardin Fairgrounds.....4
Aug.: Youth Fair 2-5
Celebration of Their Spirit -
Crow & Cheyenne Artwork,
JailHouse Gallery 8/3-9/30
Bighorn River Raft Race 13

Crow Fair, Crow Agency.....17-20
Sept.: Quack Attack Duck Derby.....TBA
Oct.: 27th Custer County Traveling
Collection, JailHouse Gallery 4-31
After Harvest Dance, Fairgrounds 9
Nov.: 18th Annual Area Artists
Invitational, JailHouse Gallery ..11/4-12/16

BATTLEFIELD AREA MUSEUMS



Billings
Hardin 1
Crow Agency
Garryowen 2
3

1 Big Horn County Historical Museum and State Visitor Center invites visitors to tour a village of restored buildings, a shady picnic area, and a museum and gift shop. The museum interprets Big Horn County history and Little Bighorn Battlefield stories. Videos of area attractions and about area and historic events are shown free. Local, regional and Montana traveler information center. All exhibits are free. Open year round.

Hardin I-90 Exit 497. (406) 665-1671

2 Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument is operated by the National Park Service. The Visitor Center Museum interprets the battle, Indian culture, archaeology and frontier soldiers. It includes a book store. Trails lead through the battlefield, the cemetery, and the Reno-Benteen Battlefield. Live programs and talks are given Memorial Day to Labor Day. Open year round. A fee is charged for all except Custer National Cemetery.

I-90 and Highway 212 Junction Exit 510. (406) 638-2621

3 Custer Battlefield Museum has an extensive collection of 100 D.E. Barry 1870s-80s photographs of participants in the Battle of the Little Bighorn. A trading post gift shop, rare collectibles shop, convenience store, and picnic area are part of the fort-style structure. The tomb of the unknown Little Bighorn Battlefield soldier is at this site. A new Peace Memorial Monument was dedicated in 2001. Open year round. A fee is charged for the museum only.

Garryowen I-90 Exit 514. (406) 638-1876



Enjoy all water sports and a spectacular view in the Bighorn Canyon Recreation Area.
Gloria Wester Photo



Bighorn Canyon Recreation Area

Yellowtail Dam rises 525 feet between the rugged walls of Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, and spans 1,480 feet along its crest. This tall, variable-thickness, arch-type dam backs up the water of Bighorn Lake for 71 miles.

The recreation area straddles the Montana-Wyoming state line. Bighorn Lake is accessible from Hardin, MT, via Montana Highway 313, or on the south end from Lovell, WY, on Highway 37.

The deep body of water was dammed to provide for flood control, irrigation, and generation of power.

And the fishing and recreation are outstanding!

Bighorn Canyon offers year-round fishing opportunities. Walleye, rainbow and brown trout, yellow perch, ling, crappie, and catfish are among the usual catches. Fishing regulations and limits follow state laws and fishing license regulations. Winter ice fishing is popular for ling, walleye and trout.

Water conditions below the Afterbay Dam are ideal for trout, and

this portion of the Bighorn River has developed into a blue ribbon trout fishery. Brown trout are the most abundant with rainbow trout also present. Information on limits, regulations, and fishing conditions is available at the Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center during the summer season. Guide services, boat rentals, vehicle shuttle service, food and equipment are available in Hardin, St. Xavier, and Fort Smith. Float distance from the Afterbay Dam to Three-Mile (Lind) Access is 3 miles. The distance from Three-Mile Access to the Bighorn Access is 10 miles.

Limited boat tours, hiking trails, camping, scenic drives, and ranger-led activities are also offered in the Fort Smith, Yellowtail Dam area.

Self-guided tours of two to three hours, half day, full day, and more than a day, have been designed. Thirty-minute programs about park-related subjects are offered. Other special demonstrations and programs are presented during the summer.

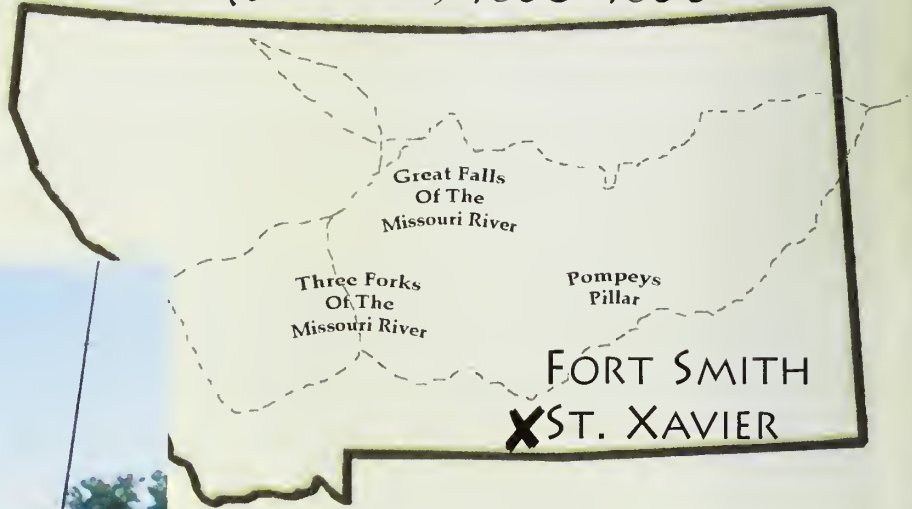
Camping at Bighorn Canyon is available in a variety of environments

in designated areas. Call the National Park Service at (406) 666-2412. All campgrounds are open year round.

Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center, operated by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation, is open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Memorial Day to Labor Day. Information about the area is displayed through exhibits, printed material, and a variety of films. To receive detailed informational materials, write: Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 7458, Fort Smith, MT 59035. The Visitor Center is located at the end of Highway 313 at Yellowtail Dam. For information, call (406) 666-3218 in summer and (406) 666-2412 in winter, www.nps.gov/bica.

The Recreation Use fee is \$5 per day per vehicle or \$30 annually. Holders of National Parks Passes, Golden Eagle, Age, and Access Passports enter free. These passes are available at the NPS headquarters building in the winter and at the Visitor Center in the summer.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Fly fishing on the Bighorn River.
Gloria Wester Photo

Montana's "Crown Jewel"

The Bighorn River, flowing for nearly 50 miles between Fort Smith and Hardin, is the crown jewel in the treasure of Montana trout waters, and during normal water flow years, it might just be the finest fly fishing stream in America!

Since the completion of the Yellowtail Dam in 1965, the Bighorn has become a blue-ribbon fishing stream that attracts the experienced angler looking for that extra challenge, but it is also a river for all ages.

Water conditions below the Afterbay Dam are ideal for trout. Brown trout are the most abundant with rainbow trout also present. Usually, the river is open and fishable year-round above Bighorn Access to Fort Smith.

Anglers normally put in at the Fort Smith Bridge. Half day trips commonly get out at the Three Mile Access. For a full day of float fishing, the 12 miles to the Bighorn Access offer great fishing holes and a variety of stream flows, enough to satisfy the abilities of any angler.

Fishermen and -women, hunters and recreational floaters can launch their drift boats into the Bighorn

Fishing Paradise

from several access sites from Fort Smith to Hardin. A portion of the Bighorn, near Hardin, is also open to jet boats.

For novices, or experts, experienced resident guides can maximize a fly fishing experience with lessons, river savvy, boats and equipment.

Camping is permitted at many points along the river, including Afterbay, Bighorn, Mallards Landing, and Two Leggins fishing accesses.

Information on limits, regulations, and fishing conditions is available at the guide services and boat rentals in St. Xavier, and Fort Smith.

The Bighorn River irrigates fields of malting barley, alfalfa, and sugar beets.

Fort C.F. Smith Site: The Bighorn River trout await the angler reaching Fort Smith, Montana, by way of Highway 313. Fort Smith businesses offer fishing supplies and fishing tips, lodging, dining, lunches for the river trip, groceries, gasoline, and souvenirs.

Fort C.F. Smith was established on August 12, 1866, to protect immigrants traveling on the Bozeman Trail from attacks by the Sioux Indians. The Bozeman Trail crossed the Bighorn River 400 yards from the fort.

Located near the present town of Fort Smith, all that remains of the site are low mounds and interesting stories.

One of the original officers' quarters buildings from Fort Custer is now at Fort Smith. Fort Custer was established in 1877, built atop a bluff overlooking Hardin. The building was removed from the fort

site and used as a ranch house for many years. It has now been moved to Fort Smith.

St. Xavier: The influence of the Jesuits on the West is a living history experience at St. Xavier, south of Hardin on Highway 313. Fr. Peter Paul Prondo, a Jesuit Priest, established the first mission at St. Xavier in 1887. The church is still in use and the school, affiliated with the St. Labre Mission School, also continues to operate.

Now called the Pretty Eagle School, after a famous Crow Chief, the K-8 school is attended by over 120 students from a 45-mile radius.

Guide and shuttle services, and boat rentals are offered at St. Xavier. Highway 313 continues to Fort Smith and Yellowtail Dam (20 miles). Or from St. Xavier, Highway 91 leads to Pryor, home of Chief Plenty Coups State Park (See page 115).

Winter Recreation

Load your snow machines on the trailer and bring your cross country skis with you when you come to Custer Country in the winter.

Snowmobiling

The "Snowmobile Law and Safety" guide is available through FWP. Montana requires a nonresident temporary-use permit, which is valid for thirty consecutive days. Snowmobile operators riding on public streets, roads or highways must possess a drivers license. Youths must possess a snowmobile education certificate and travel with an adult. To receive the guide and pamphlets on snowmobile safety and avalanche awareness and precautions, write to Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Headquarters, 1420 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620 or phone (406) 444-2535.

A state tourism department publication, "Montana Winter Guide," provides information on trail systems, rentals, services, lodging and activities throughout the state. For a copy, contact Travel Montana, P.O. Box 200533, Helena, MT 59620-0533, or call toll free 1-800-VISIT MT or call (406) 444-2654.

Cross Country Skiing

Ski the West! Camps Pass in Custer National Forest is 18 miles east of Ashland on U.S. Highway 212. The trail is designed with two loops, with parking at the trailhead. Each loop is two kilometers. They are rated "easy"



Beauties like this make the Bighorn River a blue ribbon trout stream.
Photo courtesy of Dick Torbert

and "more difficult." The trails are groomed intermittently. For up-to-date

information, contact Custer National Forest. See page 128.

COME BE A PART of the TRADITION



◆ BEAUTIFUL CABINS ◆

COMPLETE with BATHS & KITCHENS

◆ R.V. & TENT SITES ◆ CLEAN PUBLIC SHOWERS ◆

"AUTUMN BROWN" FLYFISHING GUIDE SERVICE

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"FRIENDLY" FLY SHOP ◆ MFW&P LICENSE SALES

◆ COMPETITIVE PRICES ◆ OUTSTANDING HOSPITALITY ◆

QUIET LOCATION WITH LOTS OF SHADE & GREEN GRASS

◆ ONLY ONE MILE from the BIGHORN RIVER ◆

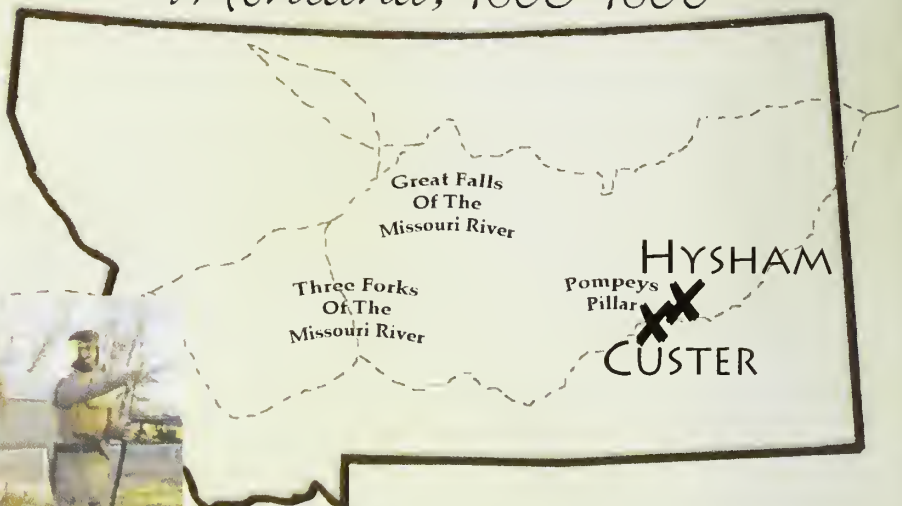


"A BIGHORN RIVER TRADITION"

3 MILES
NORTH OF FORT SMITH
OFF HIGHWAY 313
NEAR MILE MARKER 38

CALL (406) 666-2391 for RESERVATIONS or INFORMATION

The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Captain William Clark and Sacajawea statues in Hysham.
Bob Schulze Photo
Agates. Travel Montana Photo

Land of Treasure

Hysham, the county seat of Treasure County, is bordered on the north by the Yellowstone River. South, the land stretches into beautiful rolling hills.

Where Cattle Graze

Flying E Ranch: At the beginning of the twentieth century, soon after Montana territory earned its statehood in 1889, Hysham was a part of the great expanse of the region known at that time as Custer County. It was on what was then the Crow Indian Reservation. Cattle branded with the Flying E grazed near the Northern Pacific tracks where trainmen threw off supplies "for Hysham." Charlie J. Hysham was associated with the Flying E Ranch which ran thousands of cattle in an area between the Bighorn River on the west to Reservation Creek on the east, and from the Yellowstone River to the Wyoming line.

River Forts: Treasure County has some outstanding historic sites. Manuel Lisa built the first building, a fur trading post, in Montana near the mouth of the Bighorn River in 1807. Fort Cass was the first fort built by the American Fur Co. on the Yellowstone, just 3 miles below the mouth of the Bighorn. Fort Pease was a stockade constructed in 1875, near the mouth of the Bighorn, as a defense against a party of Sioux Indians and also as a trading post. Remnants of Fort Pease still stand on the original site. Other fort locations remain a mystery.

Rural America: Located about half-way between Miles City and Billings on Interstate 94, the agricultural community spreads out in a panorama of green fields, pasture land and strips of grain. The community has four churches, a swimming pool for youngsters and adults, and a city park with covered

picnic facilities, watched over by a concrete statue of a lion. For small airplanes, there is a lighted airport landing strip about 2 miles east of Hysham along a secondary highway.

Treasure County has a museum on Hysham's main street. "Tales of Treasure County," a history of the people and events of the area, is sold at the museum. Across from the museum is the historic Yucca Theater. A white buffalo concrete sculpture is an item of historic and artistic interest that stands as a sentinel in front of the theater along with statues of Clark, a member of his exploration party, Sacajawea, and infant Pomp. Stop and take your picture in front of the monumental-sized collection. The museum is open Monday through Saturday, Memorial Day to Labor Day, and other times by appointment. Admission is free, and donations are welcome.

Wildlife, Roping, Recreation: Deer and antelope, pheasants, geese, turkeys, grouse, sage hens, and ducks make good hunting for local and out-of-state hunters.

The Myers Arena, about 6 miles from Hysham, is operated by members of the Treasure Riders, who sponsor roping and riding events during summer months.

Along the Yellowstone, which meanders through the area, there are numerous access sites for traveler enjoyment. The boat dock at the state fishing access site at Myers Bridge is shown on the map on the facing page. Take a break in Hysham and explore the fossil dig. Enjoy agate hunting or fishing, camping or boating.

Everyone is invited to enjoy the annual Fourth of July parade and barbecue at Hysham City Park.

Sanders Gym, 7 miles east of Hysham on Old Highway 10 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Historic architecture enthusiasts

These Fine Custer Businesses WELCOME YOU!

Custer Market

(406)856-4181

Custer Public School

(406)856-4117

CK's Hair Designs

(406)856-4272

Fort Custer Bar & Cafe

(406)856-4191

Jimbo's Junction City Saloon

(406)856-4888

Mothershead Custom Built Trailers

(406)856-4261

Perrin Oil & Parts

(406)856-4156

Pop's Place Cafe & Motel

(406)856-6091

Shari's Beauty Shop

(406)856-4230

*Sponsored by:
Custer Community & School
Support Foundation*



Myers Fishing Access is a great place for adults and kids to fish. Gloria Wester Photo

may view the 70x40-foot log structure by making a phone call in advance to (406) 342-5400. Any group may rent the building.

2006 Events in Hysham

July: Parade and Barbecue 4
Rosebud /Treasure County Fair

(In Forsyth).....20-23

Dec.: Holidays in Hysham with a
Parade of Lights First Monday

Custer

"The town was very prettily located along the bank of the Yellowstone..."

So wrote a steamboat captain about Junction City in the 1880s. Not much remains of Junction today - some old bottles and buttons and lots of tall tales - but the same quote is appropriate for Custer, the offshoot of Junction City, born as the Yellowstone washed away at the original town.

Custer is a friendly town with lots of surprises for the traveler. Along the nearby Yellowstone River there is fishing, camping, boating and water ski-

ing. Explore rustic Boothill Cemetery and the site of old Junction, north of downtown Custer, dedicated to the driver of an ill-fated stagecoach. "She was a daisy while she lasted."

Services available in Custer include a motel, gasoline, groceries, eats, repairs, and local pubs. Take a break and stretch your legs in the city park, which boasts tennis courts, a volleyball court and plenty of room for picnics. The old Great Northern Depot is in the park. Though the depot is in the process of being restored, shiny new restroom facilities are already available

for public use.

The River

Fishing Variety: The lower Yellowstone has an amazing, uncrowded fishery all its own — channel catfish, sauger, ling, walleye, shovelnose sturgeon, and trout.

The Captain Clark fishing access, approximately 9 miles west of Custer, has 95 acres of mostly agricultural land. Exit I-94 at the Waco Interchange. Take the Frontage Road east approximately 2.5 miles, then turn toward the river for 3/4 of a mile.

The Manuel Lisa fishing access is about 4.5 miles east of Custer. The area is about 34 acres of shady bottom land. Exit off I-94 at the State Highway 47 exit. Travel 2 miles east on the Frontage Road. Buffalo berry bushes offer tiny ripened orange-red berries in late August. Watch the thorns that protect each cluster!

"Poor Man's Lobster:" Ling, the eel-like fish with a strange appearance and the delicious flavor of lobster, are caught in the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers from November through February. Night fishermen and -women who fish for ling also land huge catfish from these river waters. Minnows and worms are the bait to use. Custer, just minutes away from the confluence of these two rivers, has many resident experts who can provide anglers with directions and tips.

Agates: This is also a prime agate-hunting area. Floating the river allows enthusiasts to search the many sand and gravel bars along the shore as well as those exposed in midstream.

Western Fun

Roping: Join the fun of Custer's Roping and Dance August 26-27, 2006.

Additional HYSHAM, MONTANA Businesses & Services

Friendly Corner

24-hr Fuel w/Credit Card • Travel Shop
(406) 342-5888

Manning International, Inc.

Case International

See Historic Manning Theater

Sarpy Creek Guest House

P.O. Box 109, Hysham, MT 59038
(406) 342-5668

Treasure County Museum

Hysham, MT 59038, Open afternoons,
Memorial Day to Labor Day

Hysham Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 63, Hysham, MT 59038
(406) 342-5457

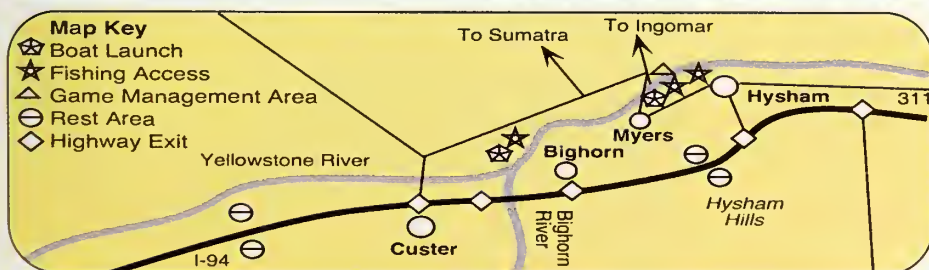
Cat Coulee Beds 'N' Birds

off Sumatra Road, North of Hysham
(406) 342-5692 • (406) 749-0095

HYSHAM MOTEL

Bob & Margaret Woods

5th & Orchard • Hysham, MT 59038
(406) 342-5469 • Fax: (406) 342-5336
hollowell@rangeweb.net





The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Deer fawns are born in the spring.
Travel Montana Photo

The Golden Valley

Golden Valley County was named one autumn day after frost had colored the trees along the Musselshell River a brilliant yellow. The river flows across the width of the county. Interstate Highway 12 follows the same scenic route. In contrast, the Big Snowy Mountains lie east and west on the northern border. Long ago, the last road signs which marked the famous Buffalo Trail Highway were taken as souvenirs. Today, a historic monument commemorates the site where Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce Indians crossed the Musselshell River in their flight north toward Canada.

Ryegate

Dead Man's Basin: Ryegate, the county seat, is on the western edge of the Custer Country tourism region. Nestled under the high rimrocks of the Musselshell River, the town is set in true central Montana cattle and sheep ranch land. Camp, fish, boat, water ski and swim at the state recreation area, Dead Man's Basin, a few miles west.

Services: In Ryegate a visitor will find a grocery store/gas station, antique store, restaurant, two bars, and a post office.

Lavina

About 45 miles northwest of Billings, on Highway 3, the most direct route to Canada from the south, is Lavina, the center of a farming and ranching community where everyone is considered a friend and neighbor.

History: Lavina, on the north-south route, was an early trading post and stage stop, started in the late 1800s.

T.C. Power's stage line established a stop in 1883 where the town of Lavina was born. In 1907, the Milwaukee Road came through, attracting new businesses, among them the Slayton Mercantile, established in 1908 by Daniel Webster Slayton.

Slayton, a prominent sheep rancher, county commissioner, and later a state senator, also founded a sheep shearing business and the First Bank of Lavina. The town thrived as an agricultural and economic center, but in June of 1910, Slayton's wood-frame mercantile burned to the ground. Although the \$60,000 business was insured for only one-third its value, Slayton immediately rebuilt a larger, fireproof building.

F.W. Handel supplied the exterior brick and the inner layer was fired in a kiln near the Musselshell River. The present two-story mercantile, built in the classic western commercial style, opened for business in the fall of 1910. Slayton served as postmaster and the store was central to the local community, supplying everything from mail to groceries, school supplies, and horse tack. After 1916, it offered Ford automobiles, farm implements and Titan tractors.

Slayton, an energetic individual, was instrumental in the creation of Musselshell County in 1910. He was active throughout his life in politics,



Branding time in Big Sky Country.
Donna Delp Photo

Leave Only Footprints

The Custer Country Board of Directors takes great pleasure in welcoming visitors to our region.

The area we promote is known for its natural treasures. They are fragile.

We want to keep our part of "The Last Best Place" intact for you, your children, and future generations. We invite you to join us in our commitment to stewardship.

Visitors and residents alike have a responsibility for the stewardship of treasures found throughout Montana, whether the treasure is a scenic vista, an archaeological site, or the fossil remains of ancient plants and animals.

In a large, sparsely populated state like this, many areas are vulnerable to vandalism or destruction.

The varied resources found on public lands belong to the people of Montana and the American public. They attract visitors from all over the world.

Once damaged or removed, those treasures are lost forever.

To save and protect these resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations, we urge everyone to visit Custer Country with the National Park Service's motto in mind: "Take only pictures and leave only footprints."

ranching and business affairs. He retained interest in the mercantile until his death in 1927.

The mercantile is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The historic Adams Hotel was also built in 1908. This famous landmark still sits on Main Street as a tribute to this once-bustling town. Known as "the big white hotel," it has 22 rooms, including the huge dining room, lobby, kitchen, and bar.

The parlor at the head of the second floor was probably the most elegant of its kind in this area. The well-furnished rooms were carpeted, had a china bowl and pitcher in every room, and provided guests the luxuries of linen sheets and down comforters.

The Adams was known for its hospitality. When the stage arrived, horses were taken to the livery stable. The travelers were treated to good meals in the spacious dining hall.

Many evenings, guests danced in the lobby.

The building remains today as it was originally built with all its secrets, grandeur and memories inside its sturdy walls.

Fishing: The Musselshell River is noted for its catfish and trout. Hunting and fishing licenses can be purchased at the Lavina Bar. Stop and fish in some of the lakes and streams or hunt the various wildlife that inhabit the area.

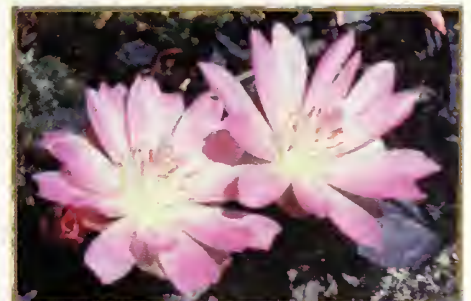
Services: Lavina has a cafe, city park, service station, a bar, post office, churches, a senior citizen center, and a meat cutting business. A blacksmith and a potter make a variety of items.

Broadview

Ducks: Broadview Pond near Broadview, on Highway 3 north of Billings in Yellowstone County, is noted for its variety of waterfowl for photography opportunities. Waterfowl season attracts local and out-of-state hunters to the area that offers a good day afield and a refreshing stop in the friendly town at the end of the day.



Land of the longhorns. Donna Delp Photo



The bitterroot is Montana's state flower.
Travel Montana Photo

The Lewis and Clark Trail

Montana, 1805-1806



Toby Dahl Photo

Rodeo Spills and Thrills in Roundup

Roundup - a town with a unique name - is nestled in the valley near the Musselshell River. It has long been renowned for its natural geographic design for rounding up livestock. It is still a place where old-fashioned values and ideals prevail.

Head 'Em Up!

Cattle Drive: One of the highlights in Roundup this year will be the 17th annual Roundup Cattle Drive. This event is organized by Roundup Cattle Drive, Inc. The drive is the western adventure of a lifetime (though not as dramatic as the movie "City Slickers" makes it look!)

You'll enjoy the scenery of the wide-open trail for seven days and six nights, August 19-25, this summer.

Roundup's cattle drives kicked off with Montana's Centennial Cattle Drive in 1989. Over 3,500 riders saddled up alongside 250 wagons and herded 3,000 head of cattle from Roundup to Billings.

Roundup Independence Days

Entertainment, food, concerts, vendor wares, and fireworks are all wrapped into a Fourth of July patriotic weekend in Roundup July 2-4. At \$12 for the entire three days for adults, and under \$5 for

kids until May 31 (\$17 and \$7 after that), the whole town joins together to put on the best party around. You'll hear music, see parades on the 3rd and the 4th, hear cowboy poetry, let the kids jump on the inflatables, join in on karaoke in the beer garden, get in on Shakespeare in the Park by a Montana State University cast, and eat in the fresh air and great outdoors.

Fireworks light up the skies two nights in a row. It's guaranteed to be a Fourth of July you'll always remember.

Around Town

Fascinating Business District: The city has undergone rejuvenation. The linden and flowering crab trees that you see flourishing along Main Street were a project of the Beauty Undertaken for Decades (BUD) organization. The trees were planted by volunteers in the community and symbolize a united effort. Benches to rest on and planters full of flowers in the business district are other inviting touches.

Businesses offer everything from saddles and clothing to antiques and gourmet and espresso coffee shops. Restaurant selections include a family cafe, fast food, steak houses and lounges.

Parks and Campgrounds: The city has a park, outdoor swimming pool, golf course, hospital,

municipal airport and a museum. The CowBelle Campground, located at the fairgrounds on the southeastern edge of Roundup, offers free overnight camping and RV parking. The shady, peaceful setting on the banks of the Musselshell River, provides a beautiful location for family reunions, camping and barbecues. An RV dump is available at Bartow's Welding, 806 First Street East in town.

Stories of the Past

Museum: Roundup is famous for its Musselshell Valley Historical Museum, open May through September, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily. On entering, sign in on the old registry of the early day Adams Hotel of Lavina. The museum houses a coal tunnel, complete with wooden car, carbide lamps, lunch pails, maps and photos. The exhibits tell the story of the birth of Roundup.

Other exhibits include fossils, local Indian artifacts, and paintings by local artists. Special rooms display the old Rothiemy Store and post office, a one-room rural school, a dress-maker shop, and original operating rooms of the old Vicars Hospital.

Changing exhibits, such as quilt shows and local art and sculpture shows are scheduled for one area of the museum during the summer months. The grounds have a blacksmith shop, print shop and the old NF Ranch home, built in 1884. Guided tours through the museum are actually living history lessons. No admission is charged.

Wildlife Museum: A free western and wildlife museum at Bull Mountain Trading Company on Main Street has some spectacular taxidermy mounts and tools, trappings, and memories of the West. The museum was expanded this past year. You'll now hear the sounds of animals as you view the exhibits.

A hanging tree scene on Roundup's Main Street is a reminder of early-day justice in Montana Territory.

Where the Deer and the Antelope Play

Scenery and Wildlife: The Bull Mountains, south of Roundup, offer beautiful roadside geology and pine trees. Companies, adhering to careful reclamation processes, once mined coal in these mountains. North of town are oil wells, evidence of another important natural resource in the area. Also near Roundup are the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge and the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Watch for deer, antelope, turkeys and pheasants when you drive through the area. Sharp-eyed spotters will see elk grazing against the backdrop of the Bull Mountains. Deer are especially noticeable at dusk and dawn.

Fishing: The Musselshell River, noted for its fine trout

and catfish, also offers plentiful spots for relaxing picnics along its lazy banks. The oblong mussels, for which the river is named, can be collected as "jewels of the Musselshell."

Roundup is the crossroads to Fort Peck Reservoir and Deadman's Basin, two of Montana's outstanding fishing destinations. It is a good spot to load up with "grub," tackle and gasoline before setting out to fish, boat, swim, or water ski.

Action!

Summer months in the Roundup area are full of activities such as rodeos ("rodeo" is the Spanish word for "roundup"), bazaars, antique shows, and demolition derbies. Spring, summer and fall outdoor activities include fishing, hunting, backpacking, camping, golf, tennis, sight-seeing and photography. Cross-country skiing and snowmobiling add to the wintertime fun.

The Bull Mountain Outlaws will host a competition event of the **Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association** July 14-16 at the Musselshell County Fairgrounds in Roundup. Mounted contestants in all age groups shoot at 10 reactionary targets while negotiating a specified course of fire on horseback. A truly unique aspect of the sport is the requirement placed on period clothing, tack and other equipment used in CMSA competitions.

Bump & Run Motocross: You will want to be sure to attend the Bump and Run motocross competitions held throughout the summer. The excitement and thrill are contagious as the drivers navigate turns, bumps, and jumps while try-

ing to "bump" the other drivers out of the way and be the first to "run" to the finish line.

Community-minded Town: Roundup citizens have joined together to improve the city. Citizens have raised half of the money needed to build a new swimming pool for the town. The pool will qualify to host state swim meets, as well as provide recreation for local citizens and travelers. The Community Conservation program has put the town on a course for more solutions to current needs.

Towns East of Roundup

While you are in the area, check out these towns along Highway 12, between Forsyth and Roundup. Musselshell is a quiet little town with easy access to the Musselshell River. Nearby are Melstone, Ingomar, Sumatra, and Vananda. Once bustling agriculture towns along Highway 12, the now small communities live on as frontiers where neighbors depend on each other.



You can still sign on for a wagon train ride in Montana.
Travel Montana, Donnie Sexton Photo



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A new war memorial overlooks the shady campground along the Musselshell River in Roundup.
Gloria Wester Photo

2006 Events in Roundup

Bump & Run Motocross events are in May, June, August, and September
Saturday Market is held every Saturday from June 3 through September 30 at the Busy Bee Cafe parking lot. Admission is free.

May: Musselshell Valley Historical

Museum Opens 1

1st Annual Black Powder Shoot...27-29

July: Roundup Independence Days Extravaganza: Shakespeare, Fireworks, Concert, & Parade 2-4

Cowboy Mounted Shoot.....14-16

County & 4-H Fair 21-23

Aug.: Roundup Cattle Drive 19-25

Sept.: Museum Closes 30

Nov.: Christmas Stroll 25

Ingomar

Ingomar, half way between Roundup and Forsyth on US Highway 12, was once one of the busiest sheep transporting railheads in America and billed itself as "The Sheep-shearing Capital of the World."

The town, on the main line of the Milwaukee Railroad, provided direct access to the Chicago market.

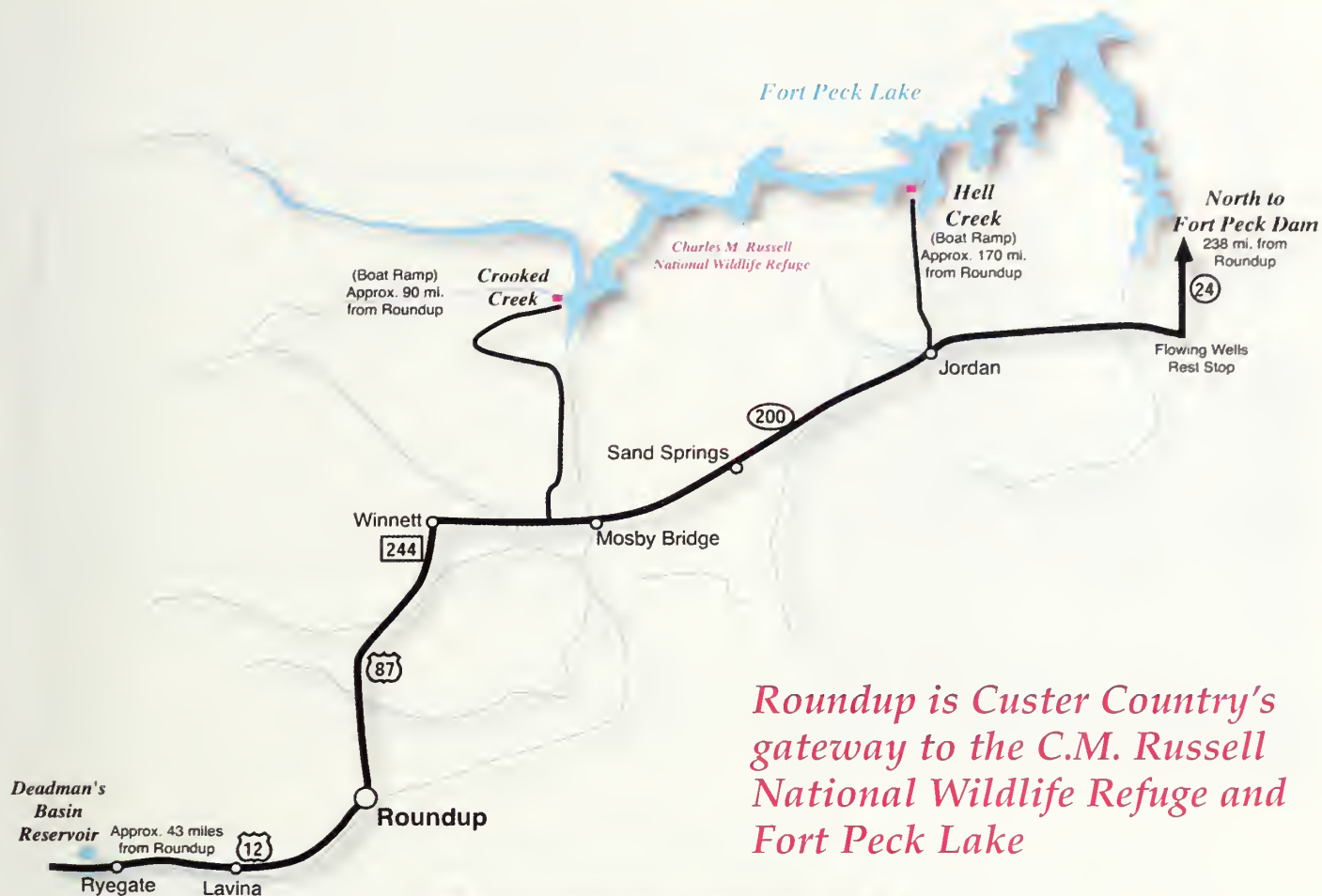
After World War II, the sheep market declined. The railroad ceased operation in the early 1970s.

Shepherd's Hors d'oeuvres?

To Montanans, Igomar is synonymous with the Jersey Lilly Cafe and the Bunk 'n' Biscuit Bed and Breakfast. The Jersey Lilly, securely anchored in a former bank building, is known for its rustic amenities and good pot of beans.

A resident herd of buffalo roams on the outskirts of town. You can ride a stage coach, join a cattle drive, take a horseback ride or camp under the stars in the kind of setting where you'd expect Clint Eastwood or Gus McCrae to step up to the bar.

The Ingomar Open Rodeo on July 29 is open to all cowboys. It is not affiliated with an association. The event includes a chuckling, clucking chicken race for kids up to 12 years old.



Roundup is Custer Country's gateway to the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge and Fort Peck Lake



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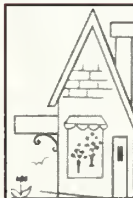
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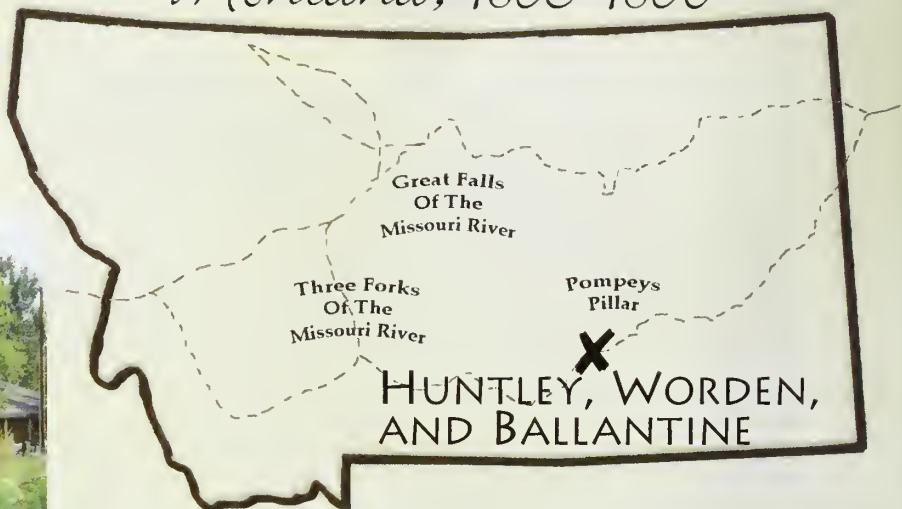
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The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



The Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture.

The Project

Huntley Project, located east of Billings on I-94, is a valley of lush crops. The valley is actually made up of four small communities: Huntley, Worden, Ballantine, and Pompeys Pillar. All of the towns offer traveler comforts including food, gas stations, and groceries.

The name "Huntley Project" is short for Huntley Irrigation Project, which is the second U.S. Bureau of Reclamation irrigation project. The area was part of the Crow Indian Reservation from 1874 to 1904 when the government purchased the 35,000 acres, stretching 27 miles — from Huntley east to the Little Bull Mountains.

The irrigation headgates opened on the project July 22, 1907, and homesteading began, just 101 years after Captain William Clark chronicled the area in maps and notations in the Lewis and Clark Journals. The Huntley Post Office was established in 1877, 1 mile upstream from present-day Huntley. It was a stage station and stopping-off place for freighters and travelers. It also served as head of steamboat navigation on the Yellowstone River. In 1882 Northern Pacific Railway built a section house and depot a mile east and on the opposite bank of the river, and the growth center of Huntley followed. Since the town was located in the project, the name "Huntley Irrigation Project" came naturally.

Reliving the Heritage

Homesteader Days: In 1964, Huntley Project Lions Club organized the first "Homesteader

Days." The two-day celebration is held each year on the third weekend in July at Homesteader Park, located adjacent to the State Experiment Station, which is 14 miles east of Billings on US Hwy 312 and is also accessible off the interstate. See the map illustration on the next page.

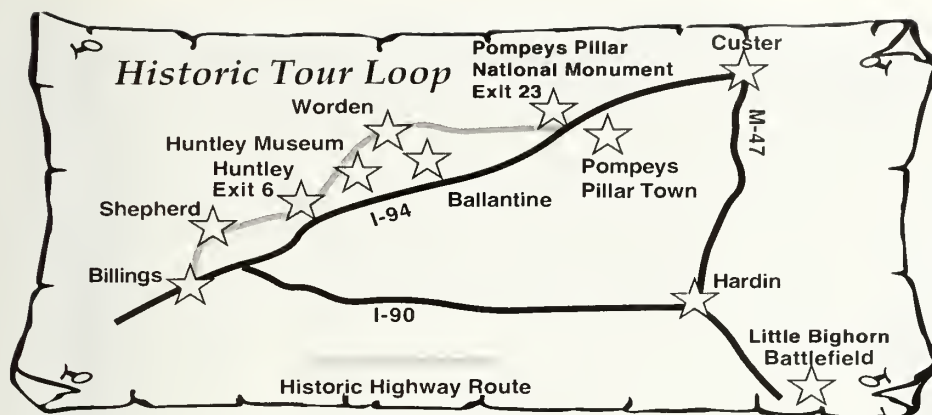
The Annual Homesteader Days will be July 15-16, 2006. Homesteader Hall, a memorial to homesteaders who settled the area, was a 1989 Montana State Centennial project of the Huntley Project Lions Club. The 40x60, kitchen-equipped hall is available for reunions and other group activities when reservations are made by calling (406) 967-2733.

The celebration honors a hardy breed of pioneers who came on foot, by covered wagon, or by immigrant train to carve out a fertile valley in a land of sagebrush and greasewood.

Homesteader Days activities are designed for all ages, just as they were in early history. They include parades, booths, crafts, bingo, homesteader games, antique machinery, kiddie rides, and church services. Festivities include a homesteader dinner, beer garden, a night show, and fireworks, too.

The admission is just \$1 for adults and children 12 and older. All younger children are admitted free.

Threshing Bee: The 18th Annual Threshing Bee is August 19-20, 2006, at the Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture next to the MSU Experiment Station, which is 15 miles east of Billings on U.S. Highway 312 between Huntley and



Worden. Presented by the South Central Montana Antique Tractor and Machinery Association, the show will feature steam and gas threshing, an antique tractor pull, a stationary engine display, tractor and horse plowing, hay baling, binding, saw mill, wood planer, shingle mill, working blacksmith shop and windmill, tractor competitions, a parade, arts, crafts, flea market, musical entertainment, and concessions. Visitors and exhibitors are welcome. For information write Dick or Sue Tombrink, 2250 Rd. 12 N., Worden, MT 59088 or call (406) 967-6687 or e-mail dicknsue@mcn.net.

Story of the Land

Museum of Irrigated Agriculture: The Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture is located in the townsite of the early-day town called Osborn. Experience life on "the Canal," otherwise known as the Huntley Irrigation Project. with a restored homestead, renovated townsite, interactive exhibits, and educational programs, the museum showcases southern Montana's most impressive collection of homesteading and irrigated agriculture artifacts.

The museum is surrounded by farmland, and visitors can almost picture themselves back in the homestead era. The 1910 Dalzell homestead house features immigrant life at the beginning of the 20th century. A unique barn of Russian design, a granary, chicken coop, and corncrib complete the setting.

Dr. DeMers' office building — complete with all of his early medical tools — and the original Bank of Pompeys Pillar recreate a typical early town. An outstanding collection of early-day farm machinery, tractors, and irrigation equipment chronicle the astounding technological changes of the past century on over 10 acres of land.

Special living history events and craft demonstrations bring history to life.

The new Museum Center offers visitors a variety of modern amenities. Interactive exhibits, including a special children's section, allow hands-on learning. The museum's gift shop, the Osborn Mercantile, features books, gifts, and traditional country crafts.

The restored homestead, interactive exhibits, living history, picnic area, and gift shop are open May through September from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and in winter from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday. (406) 348-2533. Free.

Readers interested in the details about Huntley Irrigation Project, "Old Huntley" and the Huntley Project Museum may write to: Huntley Project Museum, P.O. Box 353, Huntley, MT, 59037, or call (406) 348-2533.

Attractions and Recreation

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Heading east from Huntley and Pompeys Pillar, watch the sandstone hillsides for a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The local project put this area of Montana under the watchful eye of the statue of the apparition of the Mother of God, which occurred near Mexico City in 1531. It is just past I-94 mile marker 33 and is illuminated at night.

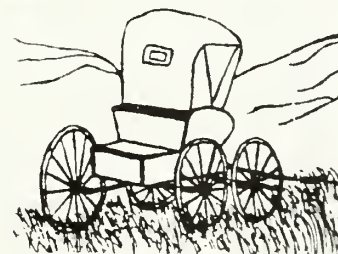
In the same area, holiday travelers are treated to a manger scene on the north side of the interstate, where the Conter Ranch sets up an outdoor creche that is often surrounded by live, long-eared spotted asses.

Huntley Diversion Dam: The diversion dam located 1 mile west of I-94 Huntley Exit 6 on a gravel road, is open all year and offers camping. A boat launch requires a four-wheel drive with a trailer. Anglers find it a good place to soak a line to catch a variety of fish. Trout are common year round. Ling are a popular catch in the early spring.

2006 Activities in Huntley

June: Saturday Night Team Roping, MTRA Arena.....3, 10, 24
Bob Craig Memorial Team Roping, MTRA Arena.....17-18
July: Saturday Night Team Roping, MTRA Arena.....8, 22
Homesteader Days.....15-16
Aug.: Saturday Night Team Roping, MTRA Arena.....12
Derek Johnson Memorial Team Roping, MTRA Arena.....18-20
Threshing Bee 19-20
Sept.: 2006 MTRA, Team Roping Finals, MTRA Arena.....2-4
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HOMESTEADER DAYS



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• **Parade • Contests**
July 15-16

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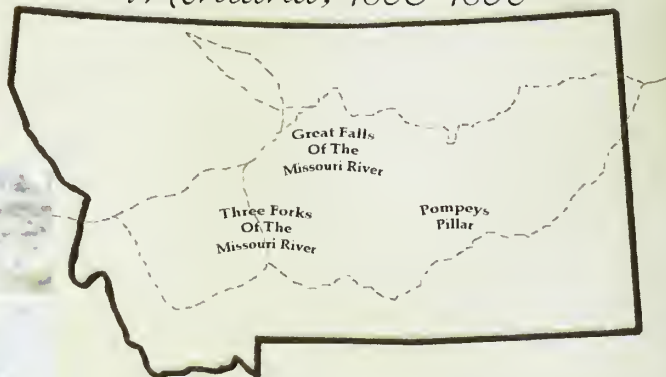
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Rebecca Tescher Robison



The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Reenactors at Clark Days at Pompeys Pillar.
Jim Schaefer Custer Country Photo

Clark's Journey Home

Following the 1803 purchase of the Louisiana Territory from the French Emperor, Napoleon, President Thomas Jefferson wanted the vast western lands explored and documented.

Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and the Corps of Discovery traveled more miles and set up more campsites in Montana than in any other state along the trail, traveling westward in 1805, and on separate routes eastward in 1806. The expedition charted the lands that became part of the United States as a result of the Louisiana Purchase.

The return trip, Clark's exploration of the Yellowstone River route, is one of the most exciting, most picturesque portions of the journey.

The Journals: As the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation states in a brochure, "Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, together with Sgts. Ordway, Gass and Floyd, and Private Whitehouse, recorded for posterity, the amazing chronicle of this great event in U.S. history.

"The recorded observations of these men during these years contributed vast new knowledge of theretofore unknown facts in many fields, including the physical and social sciences, and the arts.

"The Lewis and Clark Expedition literally spanned the North American continent, traversing areas which later would form many of our western states. By order of Congress, the lands of the newly-

acquired territory, and the watershed of the Columbia River claimed under discovery by Captain Robert Gray, were of paramount interest to the exploring party. The route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean provided priceless documentation of lands, peoples and resources within the present states of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon."

Exploring the Yellowstone: Lewis and the rest of the party had split from Captain William Clark's party on July 3, 1806, south of present day Missoula, to further explore the Marias River area north of the Missouri River. Nine of the men went in Lewis's party. Among Clark's party of 23 people were interpreters, Toussaint Charbonneau, his Shoshoni wife Sacagawea (also commonly spelled Sacajawea and meaning "bird woman"), and their baby Jean Baptiste, (whom Clark called Pomp). At Three Forks, 10 of the 23 in Clark's party turned north to rejoin Lewis. Thirteen explored the Yellowstone.

The Lewis and Clark Journals chronicle exciting events in the Custer Country region, from the Park City-Laurel area to the Glendive region.

Shoshoni "Pilot:" From the Three Forks of the Missouri River to the Yellowstone River, Sacagawea was commended for recalling Shoshoni travel routes. Clark called her his "pilot," for pointing out a gap through the mountains, the modern day Bozeman Pass.

Dangers: From the Three Forks area, where they camped July 13, to the Park City area, which they reached on July 19, the expedition had difficulty

finding cottonwoods large enough to be made into canoes. They were traveling overland with 50 horses. Along this stretch, Private George Gibson fell on a burned snag that went “nearly two inches into the Muskeler part of his thy,” according to Clark’s journal entry. Then, while Charbonneau was chasing a buffalo, his horse stepped into a badger hole, throwing him over the horse’s head, and he was “a good deel brused on his hip sholder & face.” The party also encountered “emence swarms of Grasshoppers...” Further, Indian smoke signals had been seen that were interpreted as “takeing us to be their Enemy made this signal for other bands to be on their guard.”

However, game was abundant. Chokecherry wood was found for axe handles, and eventually, near Park City, suitable cottonwoods were found for two canoes.

Stolen Horses: On the morning of July 21, the intent of the smoke signals was discovered. In the night, 24 of the 50 horses had been stolen. The remaining horses were troublesome, since they insisted on chasing every buffalo encountered, as their original owners, Indians, had taught them to do.

Canoes Ready: On July 24 they lashed the two ready canoes together for stability and headed down river. It is easy to see why Clark’s journals talk of the strong currents and dangers of the Yellowstone River. Though calm on the surface, undercurrents and channels are hazardous.

Four men, led by Sergeant Nathaniel Pryor, took the remaining 26 horses overland.

July 24, Clark’s group floated past where the Clarks Fork River flows into the Yellowstone River near Laurel, a place the Indians called “The lodge where all dance.” Indeed, a large council lodge 60 feet in diameter had been built on an island there.

Just west of present-day Billings, near Blue Creek, the horse party met Clark and the others, where the explorers and horses crossed to the south bank of the Yellowstone. The canoe and horse parties split up again. Clark’s party camped east of Billings near the mouth of Pryor Creek.

Pompy’s Tower: On July 25, the nine floaters noticed a huge sandstone rock “200 feet high and 400 paces in circumference” not far from the river. Clark noted in his journal that the pillar was a “remarkable rock” that pro-

vided an “extensive view in every direction.” Clark climbed the pillar and saw “Emence herds of Buffalows, Elk and wolves.” Indian pictographs were on the rock, and to them he added his name and the date: Wm. Clark, July 25, 1806.

Clark named the rock Pompy’s Tower. It was later renamed Pompeys Pillar in editor Biddle’s version of the Lewis and Clark Journals in 1814. Clark took the name “Pompy” from his nickname for the son of the expedition’s Indian interpreter Sacagawea’s young son, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau. One theory is that Pomp means “little chief” in the Shoshoni language. In any case, Pomp spent the first year and a half of his life on this remarkable expedition.

Bellowing Buffalo: At the mouth of the Bighorn River, their July 26 camp, the group was kept awake by the bellowing of the buffalo bulls.

Elk River: Castle Rock, near present-day Forsyth, where the party camped July 27, was noted in the journals. July 28, floating past Rosebud, Porcupine, and other creeks, the notable entry of the day was “The elk on the bank of the river were so abundant that we have not been out of sight of them today.” The Indians, in fact, called the Yellowstone River the “Elk River,” because of the vast herds.

On July 29, near present day Miles City, Clark commented on “coal in great quantities” in the hills. On July 30, after one of the most difficult river navigations of what are present day Buffalo Rapids and Bear Rapids, the party came upon the Glendive Makoshika badlands, which Clark described as “birnt hills.”

Grizzly Bear Encounter: On July 31, 1806, they camped near present day Glendive and recorded seeing a grizzly bear, “the largest I ever saw.” It was eating a buffalo.

August 1 was rainy and windy. Clark reported that thousands of buffalo were crossing the river ahead of the canoes “as thick as they could swim.” The herd was a quarter mile wide and took an hour and 15 minutes to cross. After they set camp at present Savage (near Sidney) two more herds, as big as the first, crossed the river.

By the morning of August 3, they had reached the Missouri River, and would soon rejoin Lewis and his party.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Pryor and the horse



J.K. Ralston Sketch courtesy of Bureau of Land Management

detail discovered the rest of the horses stolen. Near Pompeys Pillar they constructed bull boats made of buffalo hide stretched over willows, and floated the Yellowstone. They caught up with the rest of Clark’s party August 8.

(Primary source: “Clark on the Yellowstone,” Hoofprints Magazine, by John Willard, a descendant of expedition member Alexander Willard; historian updates by Sherman Hubley based on Moulton, 1993.)

On their journey through what would become Custer Country, Clark mapped one of the most interesting historic trails in the world. Watch for signs that point out the trail and details of their journey as you travel where these brave, early explorers and their guides and interpreters traveled 200 years ago.

Pompeys Pillar National Monument

Pompeys Pillar is one of the most famous sandstone buttes in the United States. It bears the only remaining physical evidence along the trail of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This is the butte, actually 150-feet, Captain Clark carved his name into. “Wm. Clark, July 25, 1806.”

Native Americans called the pillar “the place where the mountain lion lies.” Some observers say that part of the sandstone pillar resembles a mountain lion’s head and is the reason for the name. Another theory cites live mountain lions spotted in the area.

In November 1991, through the efforts of the Committee for the Preservation of Pompeys Pillar, the national landmark and surrounding land were purchased from a private owner by the Bureau of Land Management.

Famous Carving: A boardwalk leads to Capt. Clark's signature, then on to the top of the pillar. Trails lead visitors past Lewis and Clark canoe replicas down to a view of the river.

Another famous incident recorded at the unusual sandstone butte involved Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's troops being fired upon by Indians. The men were surprised in their camp across the river from the pillar in 1873.

Birds and wildlife are abundant in the area. Visitors can identify buffalo berries and other native vegetation on the river walk.

New Interpretive Visitor Center

The "Clark on the Yellowstone" interpretive center at this historic national monument is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend in 2006.

Pompeys Pillar Historical Association and BLM will dedicate the center July 22 during the National Clark on the Yellowstone Signature Event.

The center will interpret important chapters of history: the people who inhabited the area before the Lewis and Clark Journey, the Clark on the Yellowstone story, and events subsequent to the expedition. Original J.K. Ralston paintings, including the painting on the cover of this guide, that depict incidents of the expedition are part of the interpretive gallery. Pompeys Pillar Historical Association may be contacted at P.O. Box 227, Worden, MT 59088, pompeyspillar.org.

Construction of the new \$6.7 million visitor center and its infrastructure has been jointly funded by the federal government and by Pompeys Pillar Historical Association's gift shop and fund-raising efforts. PPHA has 38 volunteers who contributed 2,745 hours to running the site in 2005.

Guests to the center see a towering view of the pillar through the glass endwall of the building. Natural cedar wood is used extensively both inside and outside the building. The 14-foot wide hallway that runs from one end of the building to the other is 35 feet



President Jefferson persuaded Congress to authorize the Lewis and Clark Expedition. A Jefferson reenactor counseled with Indians from the Crow Tribe who attend Clark Days at Pompeys Pillar each year.
Gloria Wester Photo

high at the peak of the gabled roof.

At the plaza in front of the center, guests are treated to a depiction of the course of the Yellowstone River in the vicinity of the pillar in the slate walkway. That slate flooring continues inside the center with engraved plaques noting the points Clark recorded in his journals while in the area.

"The focus of the center will be Clark on the Yellowstone," said BLM's Dick Kodeski, who has been Pompeys Pillar Manager since 1992.

The new center will include restrooms, a visitor information center, a retail sales center, offices, and an interpretive exhibit room. The exhibits will chronologically trace the history of the region and provide information about its geology, native plants, native cultures, and stories about the expedition members and what became of them after their journey.

There will be several dozen exhibits in the interpretive hall. It will also include a replica dugout canoe with a three-screen multi-media presentation that will give visitors a "Clark-like" canoe experience traveling down the Yellowstone River 200 years ago.

Pompeys Pillar National Monument sits on a 431-acre parcel of property.

The pillar received national monument designation in January 2001. Prior to that, the pillar had been designated as a national historic landmark.

Pompeys Pillar is located 28 miles east of Billings, along I-94 at exit 23. The view of the signature will be open to the public from Memorial Day through September 2006. Admission is \$10 per carload, waived July 22-25.

The monument is open to walk-in visitation only in the off season. BLM staff members and Pompeys Pillar Historical Association volunteers operate the attraction. (406) 875-2233 pompeyspillar.org

The Town ... Pompeys Pillar

A town that began as a railroad stop near the natural geographic crossing where the National Monument is located also bears the name Pompeys Pillar. Though the town is small, its residents are known for their large hospitality and helpfulness. A bar, which serves beverages and snacks, is located at the site a mile east of the Pompeys Pillar I-94 Exit 23.

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

*A journey through history ...
200 years later*

All along the only free-flowing, undammed river in the United States, The Yellowstone, communities are preparing to host travelers and explorers during the bicentennial celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Lewis and his party missed the Yellowstone adventures, retracing, instead, the Missouri River drainage.

Communities will honor Captain William Clark and his party of 12 others by commemorating the events he recorded in his 1806 journals. You'll want to attend all of the events you can, since this event comes around only once in 100 years!

Summer 2006 - Big Timber

Lewis and Clark Expedition Botanical Discoveries Exhibit and native plant garden at the Crazy Mountain Museum. Open Tuesday through Saturday 10-4:30, Sunday 1-4:30. Free admission. (406) 932-5126

July 15-16 - Columbus

Clark's Yellowstone River Canoe Camp features dugout canoe construction and a wide variety of Lewis and Clark era demonstrations and music. (406) 322-4468

July 21-22 - Laurel

Lewis and Clark Heritage Days features speakers, exhibits, traders row, and buffalo burgers. (406) 628-8105

July 21 - Billings

Rob Quist and Jack Gladstone play music of the Lewis and Clark era as chefs serve foods of the expedition from 5-10 p.m.

July 22-25 - Pompeys Pillar

Yellowstone County Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission hosts the 13th of 15 National Signature Events along the 11 trail states. "Clark on the Yellowstone" Signature Event is at Pompeys Pillar National Monument at I-94 Exit 23, 28 miles east of Billings. Admission is free.

A Native American Encampment dramatically sets the scene around the pillar. It is presented by Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance and the Crow

Indian Nation. See the living history mall presented by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Stroll the Native American Fine Art Market. See treasures offered by Lewis and Clark vendors and local crafts people. A Rendezvous Tent features local, regional and national Lewis and Clark and Native American authors ready to discuss and autograph books. Exhibits, demonstrations, professional re-enactors portraying Clark, Sacagawea and York, food concessions and more make this an event worth coming to Montana to experience.

Pompeys Pillar Historical Association, along with the Bureau of Land Management, invite everyone to join in the dedication of a new interpretive center at Pompeys Pillar Saturday, July 22, at 10 a.m.

The National Park Service's Corps of Discovery II exhibit tents and The Tent of Many Voices speakers' tent will be on the grounds for the four days.

Signature Event opening ceremonies begin at noon July 22 with a flag ceremony, army band, salute to veterans, and a presentation by pillar partners.

Set in Stone: The Legacy of William Clark is a symposium of Clark biographers moderated by Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs set for Sunday, July 23, 2-4 p.m. On July 24, a symposium features Native American speakers.

Tuesday, July 25, marks the actual date Capt. Clark carved his name into the 150-foot sandstone butte named for Sacagawea's baby (18 months old when they reached the pillar, and dear to Clark). He carved "Wm. Clark, July 25, 1806," and created the only remaining physical evidence of the journey along the trail when he did it. All cultures will participate in The National



A film in the new Pompeys Pillar Interpretive Center captures these actors reliving the Clark on the Yellowstone journey.
Dick Kodeski BLM Photo

Day of Honor, which includes a keynote address, pipe ceremony, Native American Parade of Honor, a gift exchange, and Native American drumming and dancing. (406) 245-4111

clarkontheyellowstone.org

pompeyspillar.org

Summer 2006 - Garryowen

Rare, historic Lewis and Clark books are exhibited at Custer Battlefield Museum. (406) 638-1876

July 27-28 - Forsyth

Clark Among the Rosebuds programs and outdoor events bloom in Rosebud County. (406) 346-7561

July 30-Aug. 3 - Miles City

Visitors will marvel at the discoveries that unfold at the Clark on the Lower Yellowstone and Corps of Discovery II - 200 Years to the Future exhibit at the Eastern Montana Fairgrounds in Miles City.

Speakers, demonstrations, living history activities, items and technology of the 1806 period, activities for children, rides in historic horse drawn wagons, and a grand ball, June 30, are on the agenda. Admission is free, except the ball (\$5 for spectators). Food and souvenir concessions are available. Contact the Miles City Chamber for detail updates. (406) 234-2890.

July 31 - Terry

Stop by for the commemoration of the date Clark's party camped near Terry. (406) 635-5782

August 5 - Glendive

Creation of the World's Largest Old Fashioned Birthday Cake for Capt. Clark's birthday party is the perfect event dessert! (406) 365-4520



The Lewis and Clark Trail Montana, 1805-1806



Moss Mansion

Billings is Known as Montana's Magic City

Billings is Montana's largest city with a population approaching 100,000. It's IN Billings is the chamber of commerce slogan. Indeed, Billings is your hub for transportation, accommodations, entertainment, attractions, shopping and cuisine.

Regional accommodations specialize in making the road-weary traveler feel welcome and safe. Put up your feet, kick back, and relax at one of the hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, resorts, and historic lodges in and around Billings...a choice of nearly 4,000 rooms in all.

Go Shopping: Enjoy bustling business districts — 100s of stores - then head downtown and pick up some genuine cowboy boots and a customized cowboy hat. Look for a matching belt buckle and leather-tooled belt in one of the hundreds of great western shops. Check out the variety in the Billings Heights area retail stores on your way to enjoy the spectacular beauty atop Billings' rim-rocks.

In between, kick up your heels and explore the "Magic City," founded in 1882, when Billings seemed to spring up over night, as if by magic, by the president of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Frederick Billings. Catch the latest entertainment options at one of the special art shows, plays, exhibits, or movies.

For the Palate: Savor the best of Billings cuisine at some of the many restaurants offering sophisti-

cated menus and mouth-watering selections. Whether your appetite yearns for alfresco dining, lively entrees, or palate-pleasing gourmet delights, you're in the right place to indulge in a variety of unique dining experiences.

We'll Get You There: A rib-jarring ride in a creaking stagecoach or bouncing on horseback were the only means of transportation when the West was won a century ago. Today, Billings is a modern, major hub for air, interstate, and highway travel. Billings Logan Airport is a regional hub for major jet carriers and is also serviced by regional airlines. This state-of-the-art facility offers over two dozen daily jet flights on United, Delta, Northwest, and Horizon airlines, linked to mid-size and private air transportation into and out of Billings. A city bus system, taxi service, car rentals, and tour busses will get you around the city streets and to specific points of interest.

The interstate highway system serves Billings from the south, east, and west via I-90 and I-94. Major passenger, charter, and package bus lines also serve the area with numerous daily arrivals and departures.

Information, Please: Your information center for Billings, the region and western adventure is the Billings Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, 815 South 27th Street off I-90 Exit 450. Phone (406) 252-4016 or 1-800-735-2635. For a

complete Billings planning kit, write the Chamber at P.O. Box 31177, Billings, MT 59107, or access the web site itsinbillings.com. At the Chamber, visitors are welcomed by the heroic-sized Cattle Drive monument standing in tribute to the Great Montana Centennial Cattle Drive of 1989.

Friendly Billings volunteers also host an information station at the airport where they provide brochures and publications.

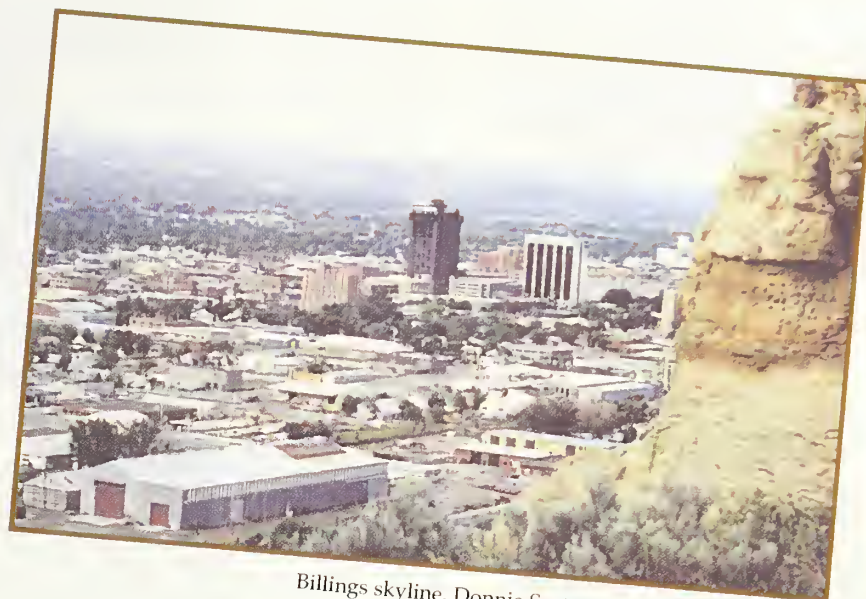
Attractions and Points of Interest

Billings is the gateway to our nation's legendary western heritage in many ways. Over a century of cowboys, cowgirls, Indians, rustlers and Custer still dominate its galleries, museums, cabins, mansions and historic sites.

Walk through a period when the untamed Yellowstone River Valley was in its infancy. Places, people and images of the valley from 1880-1940 emerge in an interactive museum, the **Western Heritage Center**. The J.K. Ralston cabin and exhibit are recent additions to the WHC grounds. The histories of the Cheyenne and Crow Indians are told in the American Indian Tribal Histories exhibits on display through 2006. Summer, Tues.-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 1-5; Oct.-May Tues.-Sat. 10-5, closed in Jan. At 2822 Montana Ave., (406) 256-6809. Free.

Take a trip back in time at the **Yellowstone County Museum** at 1950 Terminal Circle, across from the airport. The cabin and its lower level share the intrigue of interpretive exhibits depicting the life and material culture of Native Americans, Lewis and Clark fur trading post, exploration and settlement of the West, transportation, ranching, military artifacts, and everyday life of the pioneers. Landmarks Gallery exhibits artwork of local, national and international artists. Mon.-Fri. 10:30-5, Sat. 10:30-3. (406) 256-6811. Free admission and free parking.

The railroad brought prosperity to Billings, and prosperity brought Preston B. Moss. In 1901, architect H.J. Hardenbergh (designer of the Waldorf-Astoria and Plaza hotels in New York City) erected the elegant Moss estate. Featured on A&E's *America's Castles*, the three-story



Billings skyline. Donnie Sexton Travel Montana Photo

Moss Mansion remains authentically furnished and open year-round for hourly tours. At 914 Division Street, (406) 256-5100. Admission is charged.

Following the completion of the Moss Mansion, **The Castle** was constructed to mirror Chicago's elite

Potter Palmer mansion. The medieval-looking structure remains a private home and business at 622 N. 29th St.

The rugged embrace of the **Rimrocks**, surrounding Billings, have branded this area since time began. Billings' history unfolds along the

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Exit 446 off Interstate 90, West Billings Interchange, to 5500 Midland Road

Black Otter Trail winding along this elevated sandstone skyline. The trail is named for a Crow Indian chief who was buried here after his death at the hands of a Sioux war party. The scenic trail begins at US 10 in east Billings.

Rugged as the Rimrocks overlooking their tombstones were the outlaws, marshals, and townsfolk of Coulson, who haunt **Boothill Cemetery** along Black Otter Trail. Violence and death were common to the residents of this

1800s Old West town, and to the Army scout, Muggins Taylor, who carried the news of Custer's defeat to the world. Later, Taylor died in a shoot-out and was buried here.

Campaigns to force Native Americans onto reservations increased following Custer's defeat.

Frontiersman and scout, "Yellowstone" Kelly, was called upon to guide the Army on this quest.

Yellowstone Kelly's grave, west of Boothill, is shadowed by five majestic mountain ranges - the Bighorns, Pryors, Beartooths, Crazyes, and Snowies.

Walk in their steps. They were the most famous explorers in American history - Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

The **Visions of Lewis and Clark Kite Exhibit** in the lighted, vaulted space above the baggage area at Logan International Airport tells the story of



The story of Lewis and Clark in kites soars at Billings Logan International Airport. Jim Schaefer Photo

the Lewis and Clark journey. Famous kite makers from all over the world contributed 28 artistic, intricate kites to the show. Computer CDs of the exhibit and guided tours are available by calling (406) 698-9369.

Pompeys Pillar National Monument bears the only remaining physical evidence along the trail of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Captain Clark carved "Wm. Clark, July 25,

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1806," in the sandstone butte on the return voyage. Clark and his party explored the Yellowstone River valley. One of the nation's 15 National Signature Events will at the pillar grounds July 22-25 in 2006. Open Memorial Day through September 30. Located 28 miles east of Billings; I-94 Exit 23. (406) 875-2233.

Before the white man, before the Crow Indian, and long before the buffalo, the western Indian hunted the woolly mammoth, and documented the hunt with cave paintings. Over 4,500 years ago, **Pictograph Caves State Park** was home to these Indians. Paintings are still visible. Go southeast of Billings on I-90; take Lockwood Exit 452; follow signs 6 miles. Self-guided, handicap access trail with accompanying brochure available at the site. Some fees apply. See page 119.

Bureau of Land Management manages **Four Dances Natural Area**, is also accessible by way of Exit 452 and Coburn Road, on the way to Pictograph Caves State Park. Signs show the way to the parking lot. Four Dances is a primitive, walk-in BLM area with no facilities and is open for daylight use only. No fees.

Indian nations were slowly defeated not only by the Army, but also by smallpox. **Sacrifice Cliff** is thought to be a cliff dropping from Four Dances to the Yellowstone River. Legend tells that upon a war party's return, young warriors found the village decimated by smallpox. They blindfolded their ponies and rode them over the cliff to appease the gods and halt the epidemic.

Through time, artists have continued to adorn the West with their designs. You can view a sample of the contributions of modern artists in the **Avenue of Sculptures** along 27th Street, from Exit 450 to the airport. In order from south to north: Cattle Drive Monument at the Visitor Center; "Head Over Heels" skateboarder at 1st Avenue South; "The Trough" in front of Wells Fargo Bank, 175 N. 27th; Sheriff Webb memorial marker, courthouse lawn corner, 2nd Ave. N. and N. 27th; Range Rider of the Yellowstone equestrian statue (posed for by silent screen actor William S. Hart), in front of the airport.

Billings is also the home of the **Montana Purple Heart Memorial** on the courthouse lawn at North 27th Street and 2nd Avenue North.



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252-2584

If you listen closely, you can hear the past. It's the horses' hooves clicking on the cobblestones underneath the pavement in the **Billings Historic District**, the preserved business district of early-day Montana Avenue from N. 22nd Street to N. 30th Street downtown. In the heart of the historic district is the **Northern Pacific Depot**. New and refurbished businesses add charm, shopping, food and entertainment to the district.

Arts and Entertainment

Feel the Montana spirit reverberate through the concert halls and theater stages. Art, music, dancing, plays, cultural events, and more are waiting. Grab your boots and hit the Billings streets for some fun!

The Yellowstone Art Museum, at 401 North 27th Street, is the premier contemporary art museum in the region. It features temporary national and world-acclaimed exhibits. An Artist with the Corps of Discovery: The Lewis and Clark Suite by Charles Fritz will be on display at the museum during the 2006 Lewis and Clark bicentennial. The Virginia Snook Gallery offers the largest publicly held permanent collection of Will James' work in the United States. 10-5 Tues.-Sat., 10-8 Thurs., 12-5 Sun. Admission \$7/adults, \$5/college and seniors, \$3/children. (406) 256-6804 yellowstone.artmuseum.org

Broadway musicals, ballet, the Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, and celebrity musicians on tour perform at the **Alberta Bair Theater**, the largest performing arts

theater between Minneapolis and Spokane. At Broadway and 3rd Ave. N. downtown. Tickets albertabairtheater.org, (406) 256-6052, 1-800-321-2074. Mon.-Sat. 10-5:30.

Competitive auditions bring the best of local talent to the stage for works ranging from Shakespeare to Neil Simon at **Billings Studio Theatre**. Located mid-town at 1500 Rimrock Road, (406) 248-1141, billingsstudiotheatre.org

Venture Theatre is a contemporary theatre committed to productions that capture the imagination and excite the mind. Call for a season schedule. At 2317 Montana Ave. Tickets (406) 591-9535.

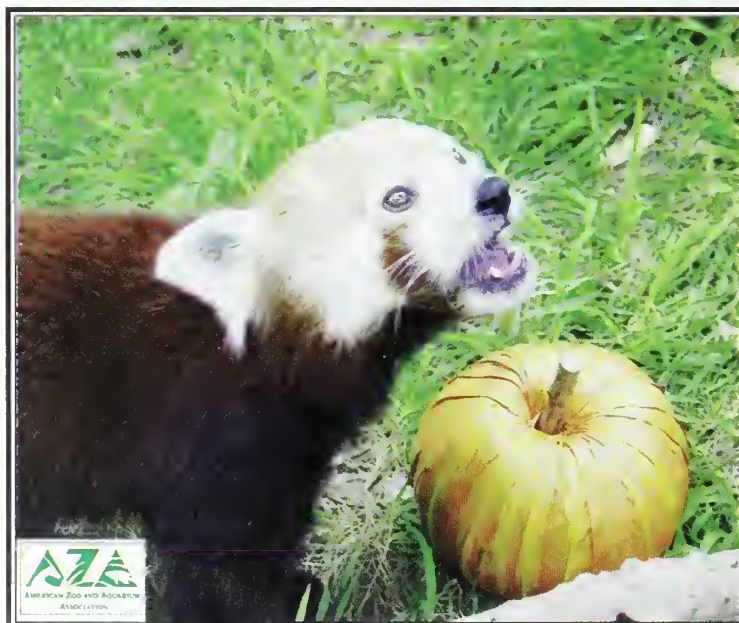
Acres of entertainment thrill thousands every year at **MetraPark**. The modern concert, trade show and rodeo arena is surrounded by the fairgrounds, pari-mutuel horse-race and car-race track and superbarn complex. The Expo Center and Pavilion buildings overlook a relaxing lake park. MetraPark is a stellar entertainment complex, home of the state's largest event - MontanaFair. (406) 256-2400 or 1-800-366-8538

Nestled in 70 acres of lush Montana green, **ZooMontana**, located in Billings' west end, is the only wildlife and botanical park within a 500-mile radius. Take a walk on the winding nature trails to discover the native and exotic northern latitude species, many endangered. You will see a Siberian tiger, red pandas, eastern gray wolves, Manchurian sika deer, the bald eagle, the great horned owl, and the North

American river otters in exhibits that approximate their native environments. Bighorn sheep and wolverines are recent inhabitants at the zoo neighborhood. A turn-of-the-century petting zoo is in a farm and ranch setting. Get all five senses splashed with color and fragrance in the botanical garden. Rare blackfoot ferrets oversee the Discovery Center where you can shop in the Nature Store. Open daily at 10 a.m. year-round. Admission is \$6 adults, \$3 ages 3-15, \$4 seniors. I-90 Zoo Drive Exit 443. (406) 652-8100 zoomontana.org



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John Brewer Custer Country Photo



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Web site: www.zoomontana.org

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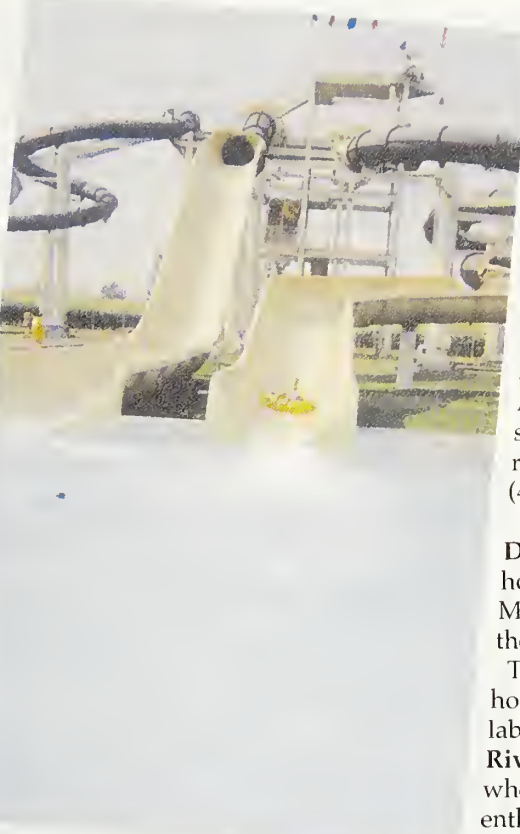
Whether you're looking for bronc-busting rodeo action or the relaxation of fishing or hunting, you'll be in good company around Billings. Teddy Roosevelt, Calamity Jane, and Charles Lindberg sought refuge and recreation throughout the Billings area.

Watch Montana's wildlife by grabbing your binoculars and heading to the plains or hiking in the nearby mountains.

Or, grab a rodeo bench to watch the toughest cowboys and cowgirls aboard the meanest and biggest bulls and broncs.

Try the colorful water adventure - wind surfing. At **Lake Elmo State Park**, your instructor will set you afloat. Or float your cares away in your non-motorized or electrically-propelled boat. Fishermen and women cast lines into the man-made lake to catch channel catfish, crappie, yellow perch and large-mouth bass. Roger's Pier on the large side of the lake provides deeper access. Hikers and bird watchers enjoy the 0.7-mile trail, complete with benches for a pause to relax. Lifeguards supervise the wide beach area where picnickers savor shady feasts. In winter, enjoy cross-country skiing. Walk your dog in the new bark park. Billings Heights Main Street to Pemberton Lane; west to the lake. Nonresident admission charged. (406) 247-2955

Rev up your engines and head to **Billings MotorSports Park** at mile marker 16 on Highway 87 north to Roundup. It features circle dirt track racking, 4x4 competitions such as rock crawling, mud bogs, dirt drags, and



Cool off at a variety of water recreation facilities in Billings. Big Splash Water Park Photo

off-road racing. For event dates contact 1-888-RACE-BMP. bmpracer.com

See the flash and speed of drag races at **Intermountain Motor Sports Park** off Hwy 3, 3.5 miles west of Acton. NHRA sanctioned races run May-Sept. (406) 861-7223

Yellowstone Downs holds horse racing at MetraPark in the fall.

Trails for feet and hooves wind a labyrinth through **Riverfront Park** where fresh air enthusiasts have year-round free access to hiking, cross country skiing, or a simple picnic.

Non-motorized boats float across fishing waters, and horseback riders exercise their steeds on the equestrian trails. I-90 Exit 447; south on South Billings Boulevard.

Call for tee times at these **public golf courses** in Billings: Lake Hills Golf Club (18-hole par 72) 252-9244; Par 3 Exchange (18-hole par 54) 652-2553; Eagle Rock Golf Course (18-hole par 72) 655-4445; and Peter Yegen Jr. Golf Club (18 hole, par 72) 656-8099. Two private courses allow limited public play: Briarwood Country Club (18) 248-2702; and Pryor Creek Golf Course (27) 348-3900.

Kids love to slide down the flume on a cushion of water at Big Splash Water Park at Exit 446. Waterslide entertainment on a smaller scale is offered at the city's two water slides. Year-round waterslide fun is available at the Ramada Limited and at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, Exit 446. A recreation center at Exit 447 offers water and racetrack rides.

The **City of Billings** operates three swimming pools with two 165-foot water slides, four wading pools, 25 tennis courts, 30 children's playgrounds, eight major picnic parks, 18

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outdoor basketball courts, 57 baseball fields, 14 softball fields, three river-front parks, two outdoor handball courts, four physical exercise trails, community and recreation centers, soccer complexes and bike trails. A new skate park is at North 27th Street and Minnesota Avenue.
ci.billings.mt.us.

Mustard up a hot dog. Buy a sack of peanuts and settle in for the Cincinnati Reds Pioneer League farm team to throw the first pitch. The **Billings Mustangs** play at Cobb Field at 9th Ave. N. and N. 27th St. (406) 252-1241. The **Billings Bulls** professional hockey

team (406) 256-2456, and the **Billings Outlaws** semi-pro indoor football team entertain thousands each year at MetraPark. (406) 254-6287

Making it Eventful

Artwalks: Galleries and specialty stores make art an event of browsing, shopping and strolling from gallery to gallery. A minibus transports enthusiasts. The first Friday of Feb., May, Aug., Oct., and Dec., 5-9 p.m. (406) 252-2010

Got the Blues: Just what you would expect under the big blue skies of Montana — blues festivals. Two are standouts. The Frostbite Festival in February is traditionally at the Holiday

Inn Grand Montana. The other is across from the depot on Montana Avenue, Aug. 11-13 in 2006.

Northern Rodeo Assn. Finals:

February 17-19, 2006, 16-18, 2007. Riding, roping, and bull dogging their way to NRA championships, the top 10 cowboys and cowgirls in each event give it their best to claim the titles! (406) 252-1122

NILE Bull Ride and Horse Show:

April 7-9. The 45 top bull riders in the country compete for over \$100,000 in prize money. (406) 256-2495

Moss Mansion Country Fair: June 3, 10-5. Free admission to the grand lawn



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Strawberry Art, Crafts and Jazz Festival: June 10, 8-5. Pancakes for breakfast and the St. Vincent Foundation Heart and Sole Run set the pace. Annually, 90 art, craft, and food vendors - all with something strawberry - celebrate this scrumptious summertime delight. Enjoy all-day live jazz entertainment and children's performances. Downtown Billings Association, 2815 2nd Ave. N. Billings, MT 59101, (406) 259-5454. strawberryfun.com

Western Days: June 17. This Western whoop-up celebration, more than 50 years old, is hosted by the Billings Jaycees. The event, held downtown, features a parade, barbecue, children's activities, and street dance.

Farmers Market: July 1- Oct. 7 - Enjoy the bounty of Yellowstone Valley and beyond. Fresh produce baked goods, and flowers fill the heart of downtown Saturdays 8:30 to noon. (406) 855-1299

Summerfair: July 8-9, 10-5. Yellowstone Art Museum holds this highly-acclaimed arts and crafts festival at North Park featuring over 100 select artisans from across the country. Music, ethnic foods, performing arts groups and children's activities add to festivities. Culminates in outdoor concert. (406) 256-6804 yellowstone.artmuseum.org

Big Sky State Games: July 14-16 Amateur athletes from 250 Montana cities and towns participate in the largest multi-sport event in the state. Twelve thousand athletes vie for state victories in archery, basketball, shooting, softball, wrestling, and other events. (406) 254-7426, Big Sky State Games, P.O. Box 7136, Billings, MT 59103. bigskygames.org

Clark on the Yellowstone Signature Event Kickoff: July 22-25 Named for Captain William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the event features events in Billings Friday, July 21.

High Plains BookFest: July 22-25 The High Plains BookFest is a celebration of the literature from the eastern Montana and High Plains region. The fourth annual festival will feature Ivan Doig July 22, and more than 70 seasoned and emerging writers from Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Canada and the numerous Indian Tribes therein. This year's BookFest is in conjunction with the Clark on the Yellowstone Signature event at Pompeys Pillar. BookFest is organized by the Billings Cultural Partners, downtownbillings.org (406) 294-2390

Great American Hill Climb: July 28-30 - The Miller Lite Great American Hill Climb is the largest hill climb event in the world. In 2006, the The Billings Motorcycle Club invites the world to the South Hills in Billings to the 88th annual climb. The amateur climb, with 50cc minibikes up to the large bore stock four-stroke classes, runs Friday night and Saturday. Many of the highest ranking hill climb professionals in

the world stun the crowds with almost 1,400 rides on Saturday and Sunday. Take I-90 exit 447, turn south and follow the signs. Admission charged. Concessions sold. blgsmotoclub.org

Montana Fair: August 13-20 - Montana's largest statewide event features a carnival, top name music performers, rodeos, midway acts, and more. MetraPark, P.O. Box 2514, Billings, MT 59103, (406) 256-2400 or 1-800-366-8538. metrapark.com

Burn the Point Classic Car Show and Parade: September 1-2. Over 400 hot rods, "cool cars," and classics "burn the point," driving around downtown to show off. On Saturday, the classics line the streets for a "show and shine." Chase Hawks Memorial Assn. organizes the event. burnthepoint.com

NILE Stock Show and Rodeo: October 18-21 - Northern International Livestock Show and PRCA Rodeo celebrates its 39th Anniversary in 2006. World class rodeo action, entertainment, livestock and trade shows. (406) 256-2495. thenile.org

Holiday Parade: November 24 - Mittens, mufflers, and hot cider recommended, though this parade is sure to warm the entire holiday season. Over 100 entries sparkle with holiday lights and songs. Downtown, 7 p.m. (406) 259-5454. downtownchristmas.com

Christmas Stroll: Dec. 1 - Live holiday music welcomes shoppers to downtown shopping. Nonprofit organizations serve food and beverages 6-9 p.m. downtownchristmas.com

Fantasy of Lights: Thanksgiving through Christmas - Drive through monumental animated light displays at ZooMontana, I-90 Exit 443 and Shiloh Road. Admission charged by carload. Proceeds to Easter Seals/Goodwill. (406) 252-9600

Chase Hawks Rodeo: December 16 The Chase Hawks



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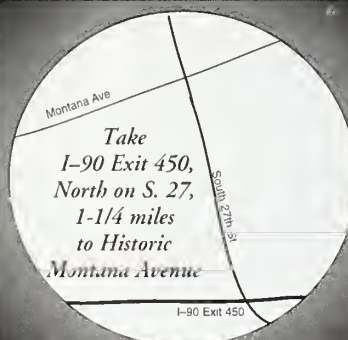
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Turtle Island String Quartet, ABT 7
 Joined at the Head,
 Venture Theatre 7-9, 14-16
 Billings Gun Show, MetraPark 7-9
 NILE Pro Bull Riders and Horse Show,
 MetraPark 7-8
 Cirkus Inferno - Daredevil
 Opera Company ABT 11
 42nd Street, ABT 14-15
 The Mikado-Carl Rosa Opera, ABT...18
 Ellis Island: Dream of America by

Billings Symphony, ABT 22
 March of Dimes Walk,
 Downtown Billings 29
May
 Homier Sale , MetraPark 4-7
 Thursday Night at the Improv,
 Venture Theatre 4, 11, 18, 25
 Artwalk, Downtown Billings 5
 4-H Cat Fest, MetraPark 5-6
 Hot Club of San Francisco, ABT 6
 Old Places, News Spaces Heritage

Tour, Moss Mansion 6
 MS Walk, National Multiple
 Sclerosis Society 7
 Montana Women's Run 13
 Antique Show, MetraPark 13-14
 MSU Billings Wine and Food Festival,
 MSU-Billings 15-20
 Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show,
 Holiday Inn Trade Center 19-20
 Guns, Antiques, Collectibles Show,
 MetraPark 19-21

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Urinetown,
Venture Theatre 19-20, 25-28
Moby Dick, ABT 24
MT Arabian Horse Show,
MetraPark 26-28
Food Fair, Downtown.....31

June

Urinetown, Venture Theatre 1-3
Thursday Night at the Improv,
Venture Theatre.....1, 8, 15, 22, 29
STOMP, ABT.....2-4
Watchtower Convention,
MetraPark.....2-4
Charles Fritz - An Artist with the
Corps of Discovery, YAM.....6/3-8/20
Country Fair, Moss Mansion 3
Motor Carriers Truck Rodeo,
Holiday Inn 3
Gun Show, Shrine Auditorium.....3-4
Strawberry Festival, Downtown 10
Food Fair, Downtown.....14, 28
Alive After Five, Downtown..15, 22, 29
Gregory Wilhelmi Paintings,
Yellowstone Art Museum 6/15-9/3
Yellowstone Valley Kennel Club,
MetraPark.....20-22
Champions on Ice, MetraPark.....22-26
Montana State Chili Cook-off,
Downtown.....24
Symphony in the Park,
Pioneer Park 25
Harley Owners Group Convention,
MetraPark and Citywide.....6/30-7/1

July

Crow Lifeways Programs, Chief Plenty
Coups State Park.....1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Alive After Five,
Downtown.....6, 13, 20, 27
Yellowstone Art Museum's
Summerfair Arts and Crafts Festival,
North Park.....8-9
Food Fair, Downtown.....12, 26
Big Sky Games Parade of Athletes
Opening Ceremony.....14
Big Sky Games Finals 14-16
Farmers Market, Downtown..15, 22, 29
Clark on the Yellowstone Ice Cream
Social, Moss Mansion.....16
Lewis & Clark Celebration,
Downtown.....21
Author Ivan Doig, ABT 22
Dedication of Pompeys Pillar National
Monument Interpretive Center,
28 Mi. E. of Billings, I-94 Exit 23 22
National Lewis and Clark Signature
Event, Clark on the Yellowstone, and
Corps of Discovery II, Pompeys Pillar
National Monument 22-25
High Plains BookFest, Citywide...22-25
Pops Music at Moss Mansion.....28

August

Wednesday Farmers Market,
Downtown Billings 2, 9, 16, 23
Michael Haykin Paintings,

Yellowstone Art Museum Aug.-Dec.
Alive After Five,
Downtown 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Big Skyfest 20 Hot Air Balloons,
TBA.....3-6
Red Lodge Blue Grass Festival 4-6
Artwalk, Downtown 4
Farmers Market 5, 12, 19, 26
Crow Traditional Lifeways Programs,
Chief Plenty Coups State Park,
Pryor.....5, 12
Food Fair, Downtown.....9, 23
Blues Festival, Montana Avenue..11-13
Montana Fair, MetraPark.....11-19
Parelli Natural Horsemanship
Clinic, MetraPark 24-28

September

Burn the Point, Downtown.....1-2
Farmers Market 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Home Improvement Show,
MetraPark.....7-10
Thursday Night at the Improv,
Venture Theatre.....7, 14, 21, 28
Gun Show, HIGTC.....8-10
Antique Show, MetraPark 9-10
Saturday Live Citywide Celebration,
Pioneer Park 30

October

Thursday Night at the Improv,
Venture Theatre.....5, 12, 19, 26
Artwalk, Downtown 6
Farmers Market.....7
Harvestfest, Downtown 14

NILE Pro Rodeo and Livestock Show,
MetraPark.....18-21
Mystery at the Moss Mansion.....27-29
Yellowstone Art Museum
Beaux Arts Ball, Depot 28
Madama Butterfly, ROC at ABT...27-29

November

Thursday Night at the Improv,
Venture Theatre.....2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Marketplace Magic, MetraPark.....2-5
Moss Mansion
Holiday Preview Party 11
Santa, Downtown Billings 11/24-12/17
Christmas Trees in Every Moss
Mansion Room.....11/13-12/31
Holiday Food Festival,
MetraPark.....17-19
Holiday Parade, Downtown.....24
Southern Classic Basketball
Tournament, MetraPark.....24-25

December

Christmas Trees in Every Moss
Mansion Room 1-31
Christmas Stroll, Downtown 1
Artwalk, Downtown 1
Festival of Trees, MetraPark.....1-3
Gun Show, HIGTC.....1-3
Family Festival, Moss Mansion 9-10
Chase Hawks Rodeo, MetraPark 16

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Laurel is the City of Lights

State's biggest show. Milt Wester Photo

Laurel is the crossroads to Yellowstone Park and Custer Country. Highway 212 leads to the Cody (east) and Cooke City (northeast) entrances of the park. I-90 is the route to the Gardiner (north) and West Yellowstone (west) entrances. Stop at the Chamber of Commerce office, at 108 East Main, (406) 628-8105, for directions and information. The log cabin office and museum structure is a historic Department of Transportation building.

Outside the chamber building is a walkway of interpretive displays about Laurel. The three current panels highlight the history of Laurel, the Lewis and Clark Trail and the migration of Russian Germans from Volga, Russia, to Laurel. Laurel Garden Club enhanced the park with a flower garden. They have planted native wildflowers and plants around the interpretive displays. The old North School bell and school marker are part of the garden display.

Crossroads Comforts

Stay Overnight: Excellent motel and hotel accommodations are available in Laurel, plus a variety of restaurants and fast food. If you like to camp or you have an RV, Laurel offers both public and private campgrounds. For more information call (406) 628-6219. Riverside Park, on the banks of the Yellowstone River, has horseshoe pits, room for volleyball, ample fishing access and a boat ramp to

make camping ideal. Take Exit 434 and turn south. Go a mile to the river.

Genex Convenience Center, just off the interstate at exit 434, has an RV dump station for customers.

Parks: Take a cool dip on a hot day at the municipal swimming pool located near the center of town at Thomson Park. The park also has tennis courts, picnic tables, playground equipment, softball fields and volleyball areas.

Laurel is showing off a newly-completed town square in the heart of the downtown area. Small town cooperation built a park among businesses. Stop and select fresh produce at the Farmer's Market held in the square on Wednesdays from mid-summer till harvest season ends. Or just shop, stroll and relax in the inviting setting.

Soak a line at Laurel Lions Family Park at South Pond. It has walking trails, a picnic shelter, restrooms, a graveled parking area and a paved area for handicap parking. Turf and irrigation systems have been added, thanks to the efforts of the Lions Club, the City of Laurel, and Montana Department of Transportation. Montana fishing licenses are required to fish for the pond's trout. Snags are few. It's perfect for kids. The city does not charge fees at the facility, which offers day-camping only.

Entertaining Ideas

Ride Fast, Aim Straight

Laurel Ford's Cowboy Mounted Shooting Arena hosts events that are part of a series of a shooting sport that rekindles the spirit of the West. Riders and their horses wear period clothing and tack.

Contestants compete using two single-action revolvers, loaded with blank ammunition. Mounted contestants ride hard and shoot fast at balloons for a score based on speed and accuracy.

The clothing and equipment used is typical of that available in the American West during the latter half of the 19th century. Only fixed-sight single-action revolvers of .45 Colt caliber, and holsters designed prior to 1898, or reproductions are allowed in CMSA competitions.

Laurel's branch of CMSA, the Yellowstone Valley Mounted Shooting Association, will hold a shoot at the Laurel Ford Arena the third weekend of August. Call 406-628-2536 for further details on the event or about how to join the organization in your own hometown.

Biggest Fireworks Show in the State: Be in Laurel on the 4th of July to see the state's largest, most spectacular fireworks display! You won't believe that this extravaganza is free. But it is! The 4th of July is a fun-for-all celebration in Laurel. Activities begin the night before on July 3 with the Jaycee Street Dance. The morning of the 4th finds the Jaycees still going strong - cooking pancakes and sausage for a community breakfast. Visiting runners are invited to sign up for the 2-, 4-, and 8-mile Chief Joseph Run.

A Kiddie Parade starts at 10 a.m., and the Laurel 4th of July Parade follows at 11 a.m. Bands, floats, lots of horses, and antique cars combine for the annual patriotic event with awards sponsored by the Laurel Chamber of Commerce.

After the parade, head for Thomson Park, six blocks north of downtown, for lots of food fun, and American Legion baseball.

Stretch your blanket and lawn chairs under the sky at dusk when the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department presents a free, dazzling fireworks display on the ground and in the air. The show is a tribute to all American veterans.

Laurel Town Square: Laurel Revitalization League has recently completed construction of a new Town Square plaza. Visitors enjoy a stroll to browse downtown shops, then stop and relax in the square.

Farmers Market: Fresh produce and homemade food and craft items are sold at Farmers Market booths in the heart of downtown Laurel, under the underpass and just past the stop light, from 4 p.m. till dark every Wednesday from mid-July through September.

A Christmas to Remember: Laurel is brilliant at Christmas time. The business community lights, Santa's work-

shop in the city-center park, and lights from countryside to church altar give Laurel the reputation of the state's best-decorated city.

The whole town joins in to make Laurel a true holiday jewel. Maps to lighted homes are available at the chamber and businesses. A resident's home, selected as one of the best decorated homes in the United States by USA Today, is on the tour.

On the first Sunday in December, a Parade of Lights down First Avenue at 5 p.m. features a lighted parade. Fireworks herald Santa's arrival at 5:30 p.m.

Hunt, Fish, and Ski: Within minutes of Laurel are some of Montana's best trout streams and lakes. Hunting near Laurel is also excellent. Waterfowl, upland game and big game are plentiful, including pheasants, ducks, mallards, geese, whitetail and mule deer. Sundance Lodge Recreation Area on Thiel Road offers great bird-watching trails.

Forty-five minutes to the south is one of the best spots in the west to ski - Red Lodge Mountain. Cooney Dam, 35 miles southwest, provides recreation opportunities such as boating, fishing for record walleyes and trout, and water skiing.

On History's Trail

Canyon Creek Battlefield: The Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo) Indians fought a rear-guard action at a site 7 miles north of Laurel at Canyon Creek. While the rest of the band escaped up the canyon, Nez Perce sharpshooters, hidden in the canyon walls, kept the cavalry at bay. Led by Chief Joseph, Looking Glass, Hush-hush-cute and others, the Nez Perce were nearing the end of a 1,300 mile flight through Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park, and Montana. (See



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related story on page 68 of this guide.)

A pipe ceremony led by the Nez Perce elders is traditionally held the week of September 13 to commemorate the anniversary of the 1877 battle, a year after Custer's Last Stand at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

A Laurel organization, The Friends of Canyon Creek, has built a wayside interpretive shelter near the mouth of Canyon Creek. A sandstone monument describing the incident, dedicated in 1958, is part of the interpretive display also. The visitor site provides off-road parking and a shaded structure. With the help of the National Park Service, the Friends of Canyon Creek group has installed interpretive panels that tell the story of the important historic rifle fire fight that ended with the Nez Perce as the decided victors in the Canyon Creek Battle,



Riderless Horse Ceremony is part of Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo) veterans gathering at Canyon Creek. John Brewer Photo



Fourth of July Parade in Laurel. Photos courtesy of The Laurel Outlook

though they would eventually surrender before reaching Canada in the Nez Perce War of 1877. 2006 is the 129th anniversary.

2006 Events in Laurel

July: Farmers Market.....Wednesdays through September

4th of July Week Events:

Street Dance.....3

Largest Free Fireworks Display in

Montana, Chief Joseph Run, Jaycees

Pancake Breakfast, Kids' Parade,

Laurel Chamber of Commerce

Grand Parade.....4

Yellowstone River Boat Float.....7-9

Aug. Cowboy Mounted Shooting

State Championship.....19-20

Sept.: Nez Perce Pipe

Ceremony.....Sat. nearest Sept. 13

Dec.: Christmas to Remember 3

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Chief of the Crows' Home is Museum Park



Crow Chief Plenty Coups donated his home and surroundings to be used by all people

in friendship. When he died in 1932, it became a park, managed by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department. In his dedication speech he said, "This park is not to be a memorial to me, but to the Crow Nation. It is given as a token of my friendship for all people both red and white."

Chief Plenty Coups State Park is 35 miles south of Billings at Pryor. Take I-90 exit 445, then turn (south) on Hwy 416. Follow 416 south to the junction of Pryor Road. Turn south and follow the signs to 1 mile west of Pryor.

The park is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the visitor center-museum is open daily from May 1 to September 30. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. It is open by appointment from October through April. The museum displays, videos, photos, and maps tell the stories of the Apsaalooke

(Crow) people. Group tours are available by appointment.

The park also includes Chief Plenty Coups' homestead, the medicine spring, and a memorial to his peace efforts and to the Crow Indians.

A spacious picnic area is fully developed with tables, grills, restrooms, and drinking water.

The park is free to residents and charges a nominal fee for nonresidents. If visitors have the annual State Parks family passport, there is no additional charge.

A brochure is available at local information centers and at the site. The museum phone number is (406) 252-1289.

Crow Traditional Lifeways:

Crow Elders and historians will offer interpretive programs each Saturday in July and the first two Saturdays in August from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Presenters

will discuss Crow traditions, Crow beadwork, legends, and Crow history.

Chief Plenty Coups Day of Honor is held annually on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. Traditional dances, drum groups, a buffalo feast, historians' presentations, and a craft fair are featured festivities on this no-fee day. Interpreters will be on location starting at 10 a.m. The main program starts at 1:30 p.m.



Entrance to Chief Plenty Coups State Park and Museum
John Brewer Custer Country Photo



Chief Plenty Coups (spelled Plenticus under the photo) is pictured in this archive still from "Warrior Chiefs in a New Age." Courtesy Chief Plenty Coups State Park

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Ashland, CHEYENNE INDIAN MUSEUM, off Hwy. 212 at St. Labre School. Indian artifacts and gallery. 8-4:30 daily in summer, weekdays in winter (406) 784-4511. Free

Baker, O'FALLON MUSEUM, 723 S. Main. Converted historic jail. World's largest steer, homesteader items, early farm equipment, vintage clothing, old school. 9-12 & 1-5 year-round. Oct.-May closed Sat. (406) 778-3265 or 778-2300. Free. ofmuseum@midrivers.com.

Billings, MOSS MANSION, 914 Division St. Elegant turn-of-the-century historic home. Guided tours on the hour. Open daily; seasonal hours. Admission. (406) 256-5100. mossmansion.com.

Billings, MUSEUM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY, 2822-24 3rd Ave. N. Mon, Tues, Thurs 1-4 or (406) 248-2015, by appt. Free.

Billings, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MUSEUM. Across from terminal parking lot, Logan International Airport. Old West, Indian artifacts. 10:30-5 M-F, 10:30-3 Sat. Closed Sun.

(406) 256-6811. Free.

Billings, WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER, 2822 Montana Ave. Presenting regional history and culture of the Yellowstone Valley. AAM accredited. 10-5 Tues-Sat. (406) 256-6809. Free. ywhc.org.

Billings, YELLOWSTONE ART MUSEUM, 401 N. 27th St. Changing exhibitions: contemporary and historic. Gift shop and café. Tues. Wed, Fri. Sat. 10-5, Thurs. 10-8, Sun. 12-5, closed Mon. (406) 256-6804. \$7A, \$5Sr., \$3Ch. Members free. yellowstone.artmuseum.org.

Broadus, POWDER RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER AND MAC'S MUSEUM, 102 W. Wilson. Western history, rodeo, and activities. Indian artifacts, seashells and displays. 9-5 M-Sat., June-Sept. (406) 436-2977 Free.

Broadus, POWDER RIVER WILDLIFE MUSEUM, Highway 212. Over 115 North American Specimens on display. Fish & Game licenses available, extended fall hours. Mon.-Sat. 9-5:30. (406) 436-2393. Free.

Colstrip, SCHOOLHOUSE HISTORY & ART CENTER, 400 Woodrose St. Historic Colstrip photography and changing art exhibits. Summer Tues.-Sat., 11-5, winter Mon. - Fri. 11-5. Office & gift shop open all year. SHIAC@tgrsolution.net (406) 748-4822.

Crow Agency, LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT MUSEUM, (and Custer National Cemetery), Junction of Hwy. 212 and I-90, Exit 510. Battlefield artifacts, displays, tours, bookstore, cemetery. Summer 8-8, Spring/Fall 8-6, Winter 8-4:30. Park fee. (406) 638-2621.

Ekalaka, CARTER COUNTY MUSEUM, anatotitan-copei skeleton, other prehistoric specimens, and artifacts. 9-12 and 1-5 Tues.-Fri, 1-5 Sat.-Sun. (406) 775-6886. Free.

Forsyth, ROSEBUD COUNTY PIONEER MUSEUM. Main St. Collections from founding families, Indian beadwork, barbed wire, vintage clothing, machines. May 1-15 Daily 1-6; May 15-Sept. 15 Mon.-Sat. 9-6, Sun. 1-6. Free. (406) 346-2529.

Garryowen, CUSTER BATTLEFIELD MUSEUM, I-90 Exit 514. Largest Custer Exhibit now on display, where the Battle of the Little Bighorn began at Sitting Bull's camp. Tomb of the unknown soldier. 125th Anniversary Memorial Monument. Daily, summer 8-8, winter 9-5 (406) 638-1876. Admission. custermuseum.org.



Yellowstone County Museum
Gloria Wester Photo

Glendive, FRONTIER GATEWAY MUSEUM. 1 mile E. of Glendive. Prehistoric to present; homesteading. Memorial Day to Labor Day 9-5; Sun., holidays, May, Sept. 1-5. (406) 377-8168. Free.

Glendive, MAKOSHIKA DINOSAUR MUSEUM, 111 West Bell Street. A brand new museum. Fossils, realistic reproductions, a chance to dig for fossils. Featured on the Montana Dinosaur Trail. Year-round, Mon-Sat. (406) 377-1637. Free.

Hardin, BIG HORN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND STATE VISITOR CENTER. I-90, exit 497. Cultural exhibits, restored tractor collection, 20 historic buildings open in summer, picnic area, gift shop. June-Aug. 8-8 daily, May & Sept. 8-6 daily, Oct-Apr 8-5 M-F. (406) 665-1671. Free. museumonthebighorn.org.

Huntley, HUNTLEY PROJECT MUSEUM OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE, U.S. Hwy. 312, 12 mi. west of Pompeys Pillar, 3 mi. east of Huntley. Restored homestead, interactive exhibits, living history, picnic area, gift shop. May-Sept. 10-5 T-Sat. Oct.-April 10-4 F-Sat. (406) 348-2533. Free.

Hysham, TREASURE COUNTY MUSEUM, Main St., Pioneer history. Open sum-

mer, afternoons. Manning family collection and theater. Free.

Miles City, RANGE RIDERS MUSEUM & BERT CLARK GUN COLLECTION. US 10 & 12, west of Miles City. Early range life; eastern Montana ranching history. April-Oct. 8-6. Admission. (406) 232-6146.

Pryor, CHIEF PLENTY COUPS MUSEUM. Crow culture. May 1-Sept. 30 10-5, Daily. Off-season by appointment. (406) 252-1289. Admission. plentycoups.org.

Richey, RICHEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM. Local community history of pioneers in a six-building complex. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day by appointment. (406) 773-5615. Free.

Roundup, MUSSELSHELL VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM. 524 1st. W. Pioneer era cabin, five-room house, coal mine. 7,000 sq. ft. exhibit area. 1-5 Daily. May-Sept. (406) 323-1403. Free.

Roundup, BULL MOUNTAIN WESTERN & WILDLIFE MUSEUM, 136 Main St., Mon.-Sat. 9-5. (406) 323-1333. Free.

Terry, PRAIRIE COUNTY MUSEUM, 101 S. Logan. Historic bank, steam-heated outhouse, pioneer homestead, NP depot, caboose. Lady Evelyn Cameron photos. Memorial Day to Labor Day, Wed.-Mon. Closed Tues. (406) 635-4040

Terry, CAMERON GALLERY, Evelyn Cameron photo collection of early eastern Montana. Open Wed.-Mon. in summer. Winter access by appt. Free.

Wibaux, CENTENNIAL CAR MUSEUM, and the Pierre Wibaux and Badlands Cowboy Interpretive Center built by Pierre Wibaux in 1892. Museum complex: Pierre Wibaux house museum, antique barber shop, livery stable. Free tours May-Sept. (406) 796-9969. Visitor center (406) 796-2253 796-2381.

Public Art Centers

Glendive, THE GALLERY, 109 N. Merrill Ave. Works of artists from the Glendive, E. MT, and W. ND area. Gifts and cards. 12-4 M-F year-round. (406) 377-6508. dcaugallery.org. Free.

Hardin, JAILHOUSE GALLERY. 218 N. Center. Rotating art exhibits, Western & American Indian arts and crafts. Gift shop. Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30. (406) 665-3239. Free.

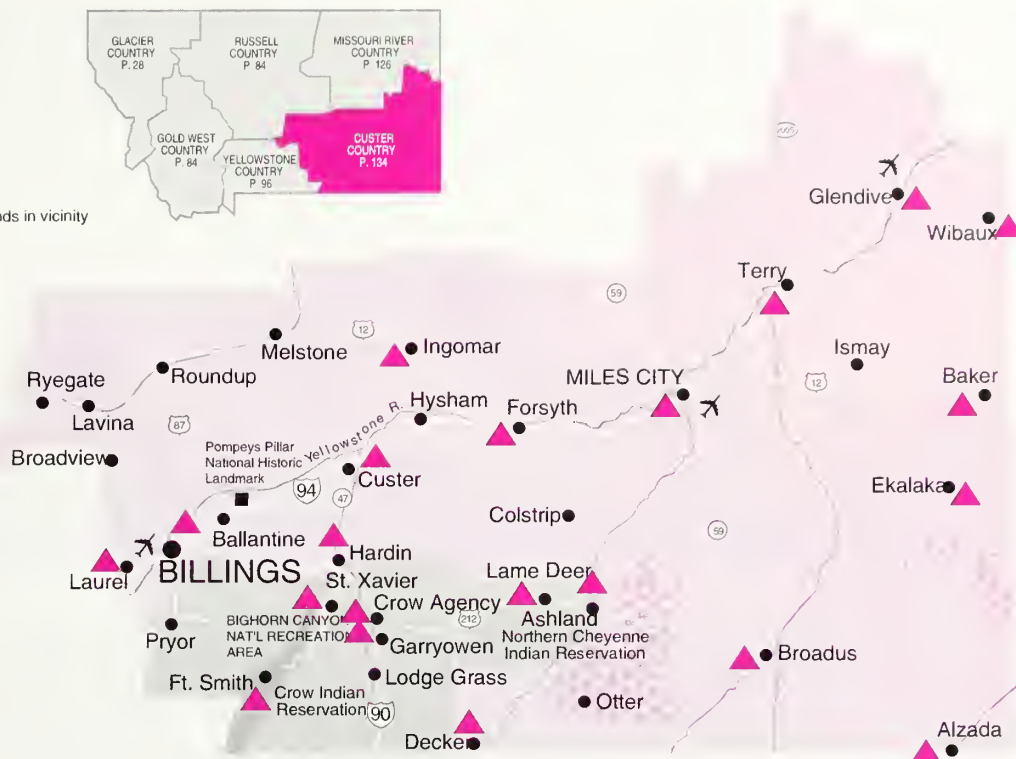
Miles City, CUSTER COUNTY ART CENTER, WATER WORKS GALLERY. Water Plant Rd., west of town. Changing art exhibits and historic photographs. Open Feb.-Dec., Tues-Sun. 1-5. May-Sept. 9-5 (406) 234-0635. Free. ccac.milescity.com

Miles City, WOOL HOUSE GALLERY. 419 N. 7th St. In 1909 wool warehouse for Milwaukee RR. April-Dec. Tues.-Sat. 1-5 (406) 232-0769. whg@woolhousegallery.com Free.

LEGEND

- Cities
- Towns
- 15 Interstate Marker
- 104 U.S. Numbered Marker
- 59 State Route Marker
- ✈ Major Airports
- ▲ Public/Private Campgrounds in vicinity

- National Forests
- Wilderness Areas and/or National Wildlife Refuges
- National Parks
- Lakes and Waterways
- Roads
- Indian Reservations



Maps in this guide provide general information only.
The maps are not accurate in miles or in geographic distances. Consult the Montana Official Highway Map (pg. 64-65) before travel for accurate information.

~Camping in Custer Country~

TOWN	NAME/LOCATION (*all phone number use area code prefix (406))	SEASON	# Tent	# RV	Pay Phone	Tepees	Water	Electric	Sewer	Dump	Shower	Laundry	Store	Cable TV	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PAGE REFERENCE
BROADUS	Wayside Mobile/RV Park AAA, 436-2510, 3 mi. west at junction US 212 & MT 59	All Yr.	20	18			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Next to 9-hole golf course
FORSYTH	Wagon Wheel Campground, 346-2454, I-94 Exit 95 1/2 mi. So of interstate	4/1-10/31	10	10			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Fishing, restaurant, pool, museum, within 1.5 mi.-Pg. 44
	PR Country Comforts, 356-2619, Exit 95, 4.5 mi. east on Old Hwy 10, Frontage Rd	4/1-10/15	15	2			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hunting, Pg. 11
FORT SMITH	Cottonwood Camp, 666-2391, 3 mi. north on Rt. 313	All Yr.	50	15			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Fishing - Pg. 84
GARRYOWEN	7th Ranch RV Park, 1-800-371-7963, I-90 Exit 514,	4/1-10/31	20	41			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	New in 2002, Next to Little Big Horn Battlefield - Pg. 61
GLENDIVE	Glendive Campground, 377-6721, I-94 Exit 215, N of I-94	4/1-10/1	7	50			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Playgnd, swim pool, restaurants. motels near - Pg. 30
	Green Valley Campground, 377-1944, I-94 Exit 213, 1/2mi. N	4/1-11/1	50	42			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Fee fishing, playground, rec room - Pg. 30
HARDIN	Grandview Campground, 665-2489, I-90 Exit 495, 3/4 mi. S on Rt 313	All Yr.	18	60			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Gift shop, pool, tennis, playground - nearby - Pg. 73
	Hardin KOA, 665-1635, I-90 Exit 495, 1.25 mi. N on MT 47	4/1-9/30	18	53			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Swim Pool, hot tub, kamping cabins, playgnd - Pg. 78
	Sunset Village, 665-2832, Exit 495, 1-1/2 mi. S. of I-90	All Yr.		21			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Near Battlefield, Yellowstail Dam, boating, fishing - Pg. 77
INGOMAR	Jersey Lilly Campground, Hwy 12, 358-2278	All Yr.	10	12			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Bar, Cafe, Park, Playground, Pg. 108
LAUREL	Pelican RV Park, 628-4324, Fax 406-628-8442, I-90 Exit 437	All Yr.		40			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	24 hr. restaurant, log cabins, propane - Pg. 112
MILES CITY	Miles City KOA, 232-3991, I-94 Exit 135, Go 2.4 mi, L at 4th St, L at Palmer	4/1-10/31	32	58			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Heated pool, playgnd, walk to town, museum - Pg. 38
ROUNDUP	Ideal Motel & RV Park, 323-3371, 926 Main Street	All Yr.	1	8			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Walk to restaurants, groc. & City park w/free pool - pg 93
TERRY	Small Towne RV Park, 635-4501, I-94 exit 176, Left at Ball Park 3 blcks, left 2-1/2 blks	4/1-10/31		8			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	EZ access, Large, level spots - Pg 34



Camp, fish, swim, boat, find history and relax under Montana's big sky on a wide variety of public lands.
John Brewer Photo

Public Lands

State Parks

Listed below is a summary of the eight State Parks in the Custer Country region. State Parks overnight camping fees range from \$12-\$15 per night at all parks. Fish, Wildlife and Parks fishing access site camping fees are \$5 per night, or \$10 per night for campers who do not possess a valid Montana fishing license.

Residents voluntarily pay \$4 per year on their vehicle registration to use Montana's 42 parks. Nonresidents may purchase a \$30 Parks Passport or pay a \$2-\$5 per day fee. All users pay overnight camping fees.

MAKOSHIKA

The name Makoshika (Ma-ko'-shika) is a variant spelling of a Lakota phrase meaning land of bad spirits. Today the badlands of Makoshika are

set aside for visitors to see and enjoy. In addition to the pine- and juniper-studded badlands formations, the park also holds the fossil remains of such dinosaurs as tyrannosaurus and triceratops. A visitor center at the park entrance houses a triceratops skull and other badlands interpretive displays. The park has an archery range, scenic drives and nature trails, a campground, a group picnic area, and many picnic sites. (On Snyder Ave. in Glendive; 11,532 acres; 2,069' el. (406) 377-MAKO [6256].)

The park is open 365 days a year. The visitor center is open daily; from Memorial Day through Labor Day 10-6; from Labor Day to Memorial Day 9-5 daily.

Fees: Daily entrance fee is \$5 per nonresident vehicle. \$12.00 per night

camping fee. Call for group use rates.

MEDICINE ROCKS

As its name implies, Medicine Rocks was a place of "big medicine" where Indian hunting parties conjured up magical spirits. "As fantastically beautiful a place as I have ever seen," said one of its first tourists in the late 1800s, a young rancher named Teddy Roosevelt. Weathering has given the soft sandstone rock formations a honeycomb look. The park is also a haven for mule deer, antelope, and sharp-tailed grouse. (Located between Baker and Ekalaka on Montana 7; 316 acres; 3,441' el. (406) 234-0900). Camping for trailers up to 20 ft.

No fees are charged.

ROSEBUD BATTLEFIELD

Site of the June 17, 1876, battle between the Sioux and Cheyenne

Indians and General George Crook's cavalry and infantry. One of the largest Indian battles ever waged in the United States, it set the stage for the Indian victory eight days later when Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer and his immediate command were wiped out on the Little Bighorn. Self-guided tour with interpretive signs. (25 miles east of Crow Agency on U.S. 212, then 20 miles south on Secondary 314, then 1.5 miles west on county road; 3,052 acres; 4,300' el. (406) 234-0900).

Fees: No charge for entrance. Camping not allowed. Day use only.

TONGUE RIVER RESERVOIR

The impounded Tongue River provides a 12-mile-long reservoir set in the scenic red shale and juniper canyons and open prairies of south-eastern Montana. Boating and other water sports are popular here, and the park boasts excellent bass, crappie, and walleye fishing. Four state record fish have been pulled from its waters. (6 miles north of Decker on Secondary 314, then 1 mile east on county road; 640 acres; 3,424' el. (406) 234-0900).

Fees: Daily entrance fee \$5 per non-resident vehicle. \$15 overnight camping fee for all campers. Marina, picnic tables, potable water, RV dump station, 106 trailer sites.

PICTOGRAPH CAVE

Rock art and Northwest Plains archaeology site. This National Historic Landmark is 7 miles southeast of Billings. Take Lockwood interchange (#452). Then turn south on Coburn Road. Follow the pavement for 6 miles. The park is open May 1 to Sept. 30. A self-guided history trail and pamphlet are available.

The site has paved trails to Pictograph Cave and Ghost Cave with interpretive panels along the way explaining the significance of the inhabitation and natural features. Also available are picnic tables, fireplaces, restrooms, benches, a water fountain, and ample parking. Visitors should take binoculars to help in viewing the pictographs.

Camping is not allowed and pets must be on a leash.

Nonresident daily entrance fee. The fees are used to maintain the site and to make improvements to the facilities.

Brochures are available at various information offices also. Groups needing advance reservations and special tours may call (406) 247-2955.

LAKE ELMO

Lake Elmo is located in Billings Heights at 2400 Lake Elmo Drive. The lake is popular for swimming, fishing, non-motorized and electric-powered boating, sailing, sailboarding, sunbathing, and picnicking. Bark park for pets. The park is open year-round.

A large pavilion can be reserved for rentals for a nominal fee. Overnight camping, glass bottles, and alcohol (without a permit) are prohibited.

Year round nonresident fees charged. (406) 247-2955.

CHIEF PLENTY COUPS

Chief Plenty Coups Memorial is 35 miles south of Billings I-90 Exit 447. Turn south on Hwy. 416 following signs to Pryor; then go 1 mile west of Pryor. If you take Lockwood Interchange Exit 452 off I-90, follow Old Highway 87 south to Hardin Road, then turn south and follow the signs.

The park is open 8 a.m.-8 p.m. from May 1 to Sept. 30. The newly renovated visitor center/museum is open daily, 10-5. In addition to the museum is Chief Plenty Coups' allotment, the medicine spring, and a memorial to his peace efforts and to the Crow Indians. Tours for large groups by appt. Crow Lifeways programs are Saturdays in July and August.

A spacious picnic area is fully developed with tables, grills, restrooms and drinking water.

A brochure is available at local information centers and at the site. (406) 252-1289. Free to residents, nominal charge to nonresidents.

DEADMAN'S BASIN RESERVOIR

Deadman's Basin Fishing Access site is reached by driving 75 miles northwest of Billings on Hwy. 3 to Lavina, then turning west on Hwy. 12. The basin is 5 miles west of Ryegate and 19 miles east of Harlowton.

This lake is used mostly for fishing and boating. Other activities include camping, picnicking, swimming, sightseeing, and group reunions.

Large boat ramp, minimal campground areas,

outdoor vault restrooms, picnic shelters, picnic tables, fireplaces, and garbage collection system.

Fees: No charge for entrance and camping at this site. (406) 247-2940.

National Forests

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Custer Forest regions such as the Pryor Mountains are an ideal place to hike, ride mountain bikes, watch birds, view wildlife, picnic, camp, photograph nature, hunt, cross-country ski, snowmobile, and spot wild horses.

In the Ashland District, east of Ashland, hunting for mule deer and wild turkeys is very good. There are also hiking, camping and some cross-country skiing opportunities. Bird watchers can enjoy the 200-plus species of birds that frequent the area.

Chalk Buttes, Long Pines, and Ekalaka Hills near Ekalaka, are Custer National Forest lands that provide excellent hunting for mule deer, white-tail deer, and wild turkeys. The Long Pines is noted for the Capitol Rock National Natural Landmark. This area also is known for having a very high density of nesting raptors.

For more information about recreation activities in the Custer National Forest, write to one of the following addresses:

Beartooth Ranger District, HC 49, Box 3420, Red Lodge, MT 59068, 406-446-2103.

Ashland Ranger District, P.O. Box 168, Ashland, MT 59003, 406-784-2344.

Sioux Ranger District, Box 37, Camp Crook, SD 57724, 605-797-2344.

Custer National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 1310 Main, Billings, MT 59105. (406) 657-6200.

fs.fed.us/rl/custer/



Many communities offer educational seminars and events about the history, culture and natural sciences of the Custer Country region.



Canada goose and goslings. Donna Delp Photo

"When Montana's first official explorers, Lewis and Clark, passed through what was then part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1805-1806, they were literally struck silent by the numbers and diversity of wildlife. Captain Clark was so awed that at one point in his journal he vowed to write no further about this country's amazing animal numbers for fear no one would believe him."

This quote is from the introduction to "Montana Wildlife Viewing Guide." The guide is a multi-agency project, involving the public land management agencies in Montana.

Maps of each region are designed to point out wildlife viewing locations. Each area is described, including a description of the wildlife activity of the location. Directions to the site, ownership and size of the site are given. Symbols tell what facilities and recreation opportunities are available. The guide includes 113 viewing sites throughout Montana.

The Custer Country tourism region has 12 designated wildlife viewing areas: Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge - Roundup; Two Moon Park - Billings; Norm Schoenthal Island - Billings; Pompeys Pillar National Monument - Pompeys Pillar; Howrey Island - Hysham; Yellowtail Dam Afterbay - Fort Smith; Black's Pond Drive Route - Ashland; William L. Matthews Recreation and Habitat Management Area - Miles City; Terry Badlands - Terry; Makoshika State Park - Glendive; Medicine Rocks State Park - Baker, Ekalaka; and Long Pines

- Ekalaka. Wildlife featured includes songbirds, upland birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, birds of prey, small mammals, hoofed mammals, carnivores, reptiles/amphibians, and fish.

At the Makoshika State Park Visitor Center near Glendive, interpretive panels detail the life history of the remarkable paddlefish.

Howrey Island on the Yellowstone River near Hysham, is closed to waterfowl hunting and is a good place to see flocks of ducks and geese on the river and whitetail deer and foxes on the shore.

Knowing that people combine wildlife viewing with other recreation, wildlife watch managers have made a special effort to develop sites that are accessible by a variety of means — from a car, on foot, from a boat, on a bike, etc.

At the sites, guidelines are posted to help visitors know where to spot wildlife and the best times for viewing. Wildlife viewers are reminded to stay on trails and watch the animals exhibit their normal behavior without interruption.

The book, "Montana Wildlife Viewing Guide," is available for \$9.95. A free pamphlet, A Guide to Ultimate Wildlife Watching, is included.

A new map published by Montana State Parks shows each area designated for Watchable Wildlife. The map points out that Montana has the second largest population of antelope — over 100,000. Between 600 and 725 bald eagles winter here and about 200 pairs nest near rivers or lakes. The pre-

historic paddlefish survives only in the Yellowstone and Missouri River systems and China's Yangtze. Here, the giant fish with a paddle-shaped snout dwells in the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers.

The "Montana Bird Distribution Guide" can be purchased through the Montana Audubon Society, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624 for \$12 plus \$3 shipping and handling.

Montana has a tax checkoff Nongame Wildlife Program. Funds support conservation of the fish and wildlife species that are neither fished, hunted nor considered endangered. That includes 85 percent of all Montana wildlife species, such as songbirds, hawks, minnows, turtles, frogs and chipmunks. The funds also support wildlife viewing and education programs.

State Bird

The Montana state bird is the mountain meadowlark.

Besides being a fun bird species to spot, the meadowlark has an unmistakable song.

When watching for the meadowlark, look across the prairies, cultivated meadows, valleys and grassy plains all across the state. You will note the unmistakable yellow breast, set off by a black swath — like a bandanna — draped around the bird's neck. Check out the new bird watching web site, fwp.mt.gov/fieldguide/.



Jack Delp Photo

Wild Horses of the Pryor Mountains



The Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range straddles the Montana-Wyoming border about 13 miles north of Lovell, Wyoming, adjacent to the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area.

Created in 1968 by order of the Secretary of the Interior, it is the first of three wild horse ranges in the nation.

A herd averaging about 140 horses may be spotted in various locations of the Pryor Mountains set aside as wild horse range, managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The wild horses of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range are unique. Some experts state that they have been in the Pryor Mountains for more than 100 years.

The wild horses roam over their range in bands from two or three up to 15 head. Usually these bands are a stallion with his mares and colts, but there are also bands of young stallions without mares. As the snow clears from the top of the mountains in the spring, nearly all of the wild horses



Donna Delp Photo

are drawn to the grass of the high meadows. When winter snows force them down from the mountain tops, the bands of horses will join those that stayed in the foothills and lowlands. Mares usually drop their foals during May. Soon afterward, the stallions challenge each other as they gather mares for their bands. This period is a time of dramatic photo opportunities.

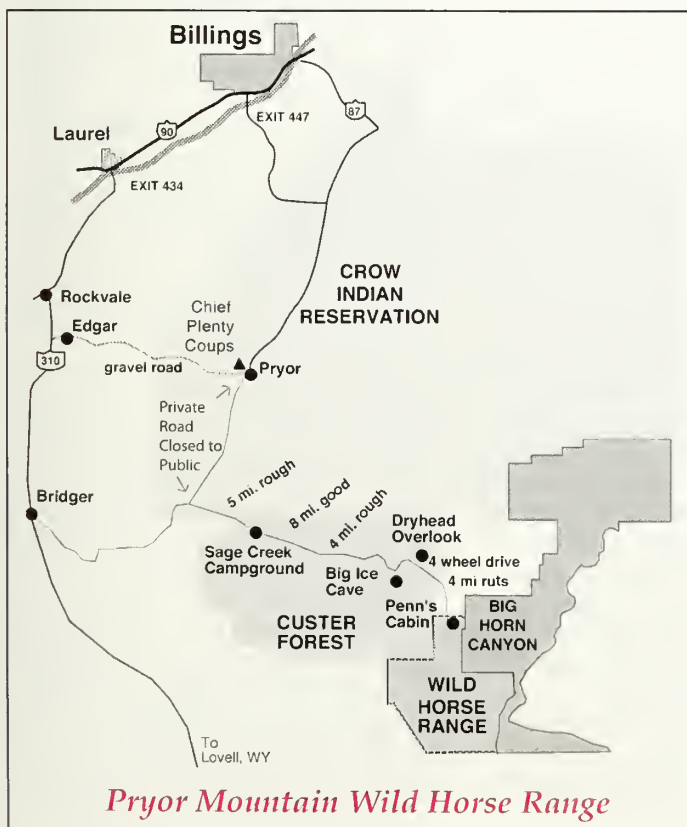
How to get to the Wild Horse Range

When you are traveling in Montana, the easiest access to the range is from Billings as a starting point. The journey is a total of 77 miles south of Billings on a variety of roadbeds, some of which are impassable when wet. Follow the map shown on this page. Two-wheel drive, low-profile vehicles are not recommended. Four-wheel drive vehicles are best. From Dryhead Overlook, particularly, the road is just a trail, and high clearance vehicles are needed. The horses can normally be seen in the four-mile stretch between Dryhead Overlook and Penn's Cabin.

Visitors traveling by passenger car to Montana through Lovell, Wyoming, may reach the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range by taking U.S. 14A for 2.4 miles east of Lovell. Here, turn north onto State Highway 37 and drive 25 miles on pavement to Barry's Landing. Along the way watch for wild horses and bighorn sheep. The view from the Devil's Canyon Overlook is spectacular.

For the more adventurous and those with 4-wheel drive vehicles, turn off State Highway 37 at the Crooked Creek Road. The turnoff is less than 1 mile south of the Bighorn Recreation Area boundary. Turn from the state highway and go 1.7 miles west. Turn right on the short, cottonwood-lined gravel road that goes north across Crooked Creek. At this junction a sign points left to Tillet/Burnt Timber Ridge and right to Sykes Ridge. Take the road to Sykes Ridge 2.5 miles and turn left (north) just before the road goes into the fish hatchery. The Wild Horse Range boundary sign is approximately 100 yards north. A second sign reads "Mystery Cave Road." Keep watching to spot the wild horses.

For opportunities and guidelines to visit the range, call BLM at (406) 896-5013 or the Pryor Mountain Mustang Association at (307) 548-7552.





Turkey hunters. Mike Murphy Photo

Hunting

Over four million acres of land in southeastern Montana are open to hunting through the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Block Management Program.

This cooperative effort involves FWP, private landowners, and public land management agencies to help landowners manage hunting activities and to provide free public hunting access to private and isolated public lands.

These enrollment agreements provide opportunities that range from large walk-in areas for deer, elk, and antelope hunting, to smaller, combined ranch acreages for hunters seeking upland game birds and waterfowl.

Hunting areas totaling over 300,000 acres of private land are contracted with 300-plus landowners through the Block Management Program in Region 7 (Miles City area) alone. An additional million acres of adjacent public lands are also accessible as a result.

Over 170 landowners in Region 5 (Billings area) offer over a million private acres. Over 400,000 public acres are open to hunting through the program.

Over 1,000 landowners statewide open over 8,000,000 acres to access through the program. Landowner compensation adds up to \$2 million annually, funded by portions of various resident and nonresident license fees.

Hunting access is also available on many private and public lands not enrolled in the program.

Maps: Annually, an index of locations, contact persons, hunting opportunities, and other information is available by August 15. Maps may be obtained at Region 7 Block Management Area sites by hunters who have obtained permission. At Region 5 sites, hunters may select up to five maps per day that give infor-

mation about who to contact for permission.

In Region 7 contact — Block Management Program, Montana FWP, 352 L.P. Anderson Rd., Miles City, MT 59301 (406) 234-0930.

For Region 5 — Block Management Program, Montana FWP, 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, MT 59105 (406) 247-2974.

Statewide write — FWP, 1420 E. 6th Ave., P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 (406) 444-2535. Phone calls are welcomed to offer the most current information. Hunters should make early contact with landowners.

BLM Lands: Bureau of Land Management lands are also open to hunting. To acquire maps of selected lands, contact the BLM offices at P.O. Box 36800, Billings, MT 59107, (406) 896-5004 or 896-5000; 111 Garryowen Rd, Miles City, MT 59301 (406) 233-2800.

Outfitters: Though trophy animals may be bagged without a guide and outfitter, many hunters enjoy success, thanks to the expertise of the people who make spotting game, especially exceptional game, their business. State publications list the licensed guides and outfitters throughout Montana. Write to: Travel Montana, P.O. Box 200533, Helena, MT 59620-0533, or call toll free 1-800-847-4868.

Applications and Regulations:

Hunters are also encouraged to write the Billings and Miles City FWP offices for a complete booklet of current hunting regulations and applications for out-of-state licenses. These are also available at any authorized license outlet, including many sporting goods stores and convenience stores. Hunting applications are available online at fwp.mt.gov/hunting/downloadapp.htm. Drawing results are posted at fwp.mt.gov.

Hunters and anglers, including youths, must furnish their Social Security number to acquire their Conservation License which is a prerequisite to purchase any hunting or fishing licenses.

24-Hour FWP Information Line: Region 5 Fish, Wildlife and Parks headquarters offers information on a 24-hour phone line on seasons, quotas and other seasonal issues call (406) 247-2970.

Limitations and Permission: Certain hunting and fishing waters on National Parks, Indian Reservations and National Wildlife Refuges may have special rules. Get specific information from the headquarters of the parks, reservation or refuge involved.

Montanans insist on offering hospitality. In fact, where hunting is concerned, it's the law. Whether the quarry is upland game birds, coyotes, gophers, or any other wildlife, Montana law requires that hunters must have permission of the landowner, lessee or their agent before all hunting on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not.

Landowners can grant permission orally, by telephone, in writing, or by posting signs that explain hunting is allowed and under what conditions. To assist hunters, FWP has developed a Directory of Montana Maps which describes the maps currently available



This young Hysham hunter tagged a royal 6-point bull elk. Elmer Heberle Photo

and how to obtain them. Every county in the state has some sort of land ownership map available. While some of these are not recently updated or are available only by viewing at the county courthouse, others are current, well-formatted, and inexpensive.

FWP has also developed hunter/landowner access courtesy cards, six per pocket-size booklet. Hunters can complete portions of the cards prior to approaching a landowner to seek permission, with the landowner completing the card and retaining a portion for their records. Hunters retain the remainder of the card as proof of permission, as well as for future use for things like sending thank-you cards and completing hunting logs. Pick up cards at any FWP regional office or write to the Helena FWP office listed in this section or call (406) 444-2535.

Record Game Animals

Boone and Crockett, the record book for big game trophies taken with a rifle, and Pope & Young, the record book for bow hunting, are both dotted with numerous entries tagged by Montana hunters.

Though bears and mountain lions are measured by weight, most animals

are measured by their antlers or horns.

The bony structures appearing on heads of male deer, elk and moose are more correctly called antlers, while sheep and goats of both sexes have horns. Antlers are shed and regrown each year. Horns are kept through the life of the animal and grow continually from the base. Antelope have a horn of epidermal origin that is cast and replaced each year. Though buck antelope have large horns, does develop small horns, too.

Antlers are an amazing structure, considering the physiological programming that is accomplished in an annual rhythm. Antlers originate from the pedicles (bony prominences) on top of the skull and begin with a slight swelling, which progressively grows into knobs, to a bulbous growth and finally into a specific antler.

Throughout their growth, the antlers are composed of a soft spongy mass encased in a covering of soft hairy skin which has a complete system of blood vessels.

When fully grown, the antlers begin to harden, and the velvet which conveys blood and nourishment is pinched off at the base and dries up. The skin is no longer of any use and

begins to peel. The animal soon rubs the dried velvet off against tree branches and trunks.

A deer with two tines on each side is a two-point or fork-horn. A deer with four tines is a four-point. Four on one side and five on the other is a four-by-five. Elk are similarly referenced. A six-by-six elk is a "royal," a seven-by-seven an "imperial," and an eight-by-eight a "monarch."

A complete listing of Montana's big game trophies for all species is available online at fwp.mt.gov. Go to hunting, plan a hunt, and big game records.

Game Check Stations

Montana law says all hunters must stop at game check stations. Hunters going to the field or hunters coming home, hunters who harvested an animal, and those who did not, must all stop at check stations. There are three kinds of check stations.

One is a biological check station. Biologists look at deer, elk, and antelope teeth to tell the age. They check the fat to note the animal's health. They clip off bird wings to determine the number of adults compared to juveniles and males to females. They gather the parts and pieces that, when looked at in a study, give a rough picture of how the animals they are checking are faring in that part of Montana.

The second type of check station is a law enforcement stop. It is staffed by game wardens who enforce state game regulations. The game tags must have the proper month and date snipped out. Evidence of the animal's sex must somehow still be attached to the carcass. (This sometimes causes the hunter to become a creative animal skinner bound to follow the letter of the "show sex" law.)

Third are combination check stations, staffed by biologists and game wardens. The wardens and biologists process people through as quickly as possible to get them on the road again.

Residency Requirements

Are you wondering whether you qualify as a Montana resident or nonresident sports license buyer?

Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials report that state law requires anyone purchasing resident licenses must have a valid Montana ID and proof they have been a resident of the state for a period of six months immediately prior to the date those licenses are purchased.

According to a department spokesperson, residency is determined by a union of act and intent in addition to the required six months of physical residence and presence as a resident of Montana. Union of act and intent is demonstrated by several factors — paying Montana income taxes, possessing a Montana driver's license, having Montana license plates, maintaining a home and voting in Montana.

Anyone with questions concerning individual circumstances should contact the local game warden of any FWP office for assistance.

Waterfowl and Upland Game Birds

Many species of waterfowl and upland game birds may be hunted in Montana.

Several licenses are required. The general conservation license is a prerequisite for all licenses. It costs \$8 for residents and \$9.25 for nonresidents. The upland game bird license is \$7.50 for residents and \$110 for nonresidents. Wild turkeys are abundant in many areas of Custer Country. The turkey license is a separate license at an additional \$6.50 for residents, \$115 for nonresidents.

To hunt waterfowl, both a Federal Waterfowl Stamp and a Montana Migratory Game Bird license are required, in addition to the conservation license. The Montana license costs \$6.50 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents. The Federal Stamp is \$15. All waterfowl and upland game bird licenses are sold over-the-counter.

For a complete guide of seasons and regulations,

write to the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices in Custer Country listed on page 128, or go to fwp.mt.gov.

Proceeds from sales of the Migratory Bird licenses and federal stamps are used to fund waterfowl habitat improvement projects and to develop and enhance wetlands and adjacent uplands for the long-term benefit of waterfowl and other wildlife on cooperative private, federal and state-owned lands in Montana.

Disability Access

Public lands around the state have had parking areas, restrooms and trails upgraded for accessibility to help people with disabilities enjoy outdoors opportunities.



Gen. Custer hunted elk. Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Archive Photo

License Fees for Hunting and Fishing in Montana in 2006

License or Permit Name.....Cost

Resident:

Conservation	\$8
Access Enhancement Fee (With 1st hunting licence/yr)	\$2
Antelope	\$19
Bighorn Sheep	\$130
Black Bear	\$19
Bow and Arrow (Archery).....	\$10
Elk (12-14, 62+ - \$12).....	\$20
Deer A (ages 12-14, 62+ \$10)	\$16
Deer B (antlerless only)*	\$10
Fishing, 2-day.....	\$5
Fishing, season (ages 15-17 \$8).....	\$18
Moose	\$130
Mountain Goat.....	\$130
Mountain Lion	\$19
Mountain Lion Trophy.....	\$50
Paddlefish.....	\$6.50
Sportsman.....	\$85
Youth Sportsman (age 12-17)	\$27.25
Sportsman without Black Bear.....	\$70
Turkey	\$6.50
Upland Game Bird	\$7.50
Youth Upland Game Bird (age 15-17).....	\$3
Migratory Bird MT License	\$5
plus Federal Waterfowl Stamp	\$15
*Youth Combo, First Time Hunter, age 12-18.....	Free

All hunters must buy an elk license before applying for a permit. Elk is the only game with that requirement.

Nonresident:

Conservation.....	\$10
Access Enhancement Fee (W/ 1st hunting licence/yr).	\$10
Antelope	\$203
Bighorn Sheep	\$980
Black Bear	\$350
Bow and Arrow (Archery).....	\$10
Deer Combo, General	\$328
Deer Combo, Landowner.....	\$328
Deer B (antlerless only)	\$75
Big Game Combo Elk/Deer, General*	\$628
Elk Combo General (no deer tag)*	\$578
Fishing, 2 day \$15, 10-day \$43.50, season.....	\$60
Moose	\$980
Mountain Goat.....	\$980
Mountain Lion (Trophy +\$50 after kill).....	\$320
Paddlefish	\$15
Turkey (No additional upland game bird lic. req.)	\$115
Upland Game Bird	\$110
Migratory Bird MT License	\$50
plus Federal Waterfowl Stamp	\$15

* License must be purchased. Hunting permits for these animals is subject to special drawings.

Youth, Bowhunter, Bear Education Required

All licenses are non-refundable and non-transferable. All hunters born after Jan. 1, 1985, who want to hunt in Montana must show proof of completing a hunter education program before purchasing any hunting license. Youth bowhunters must complete the National Bowhunter Education Program, in addition to their Hunter Education course. Adults must

show proof of an NBEP Bowhunter Education Certificate or present any prior year's bowhunting/archery stamp, tag, permit or license from any state or province to purchase a Montana bow and arrow license. Bear hunters must pass the FWP on-line bear identification test.

Licenses Now Sold via Computer by Montana Agents

The biggest news in fishing, hunting, state parks and state lands licenses and permits is that they are now networked into the computers of all Montana FWP offices and licensing agents. They were previously hand-written, then sent to the state FWP office.

2006 Big Game Seasons (Tentative)

Backcountry deer/elk	Sept. 15-Nov. 26
General Deer/elk (gun)	Oct. 22-Nov. 26
Antelope (gun)	Oct. 8-Nov. 5
Moose — tentative	Sept. 15-Nov. 26
Mountain Goat.....	Sept. 15-Nov. 26
Bighorn Sheep.....	Sept. 15-Nov. 26
Deer/elk archery.....	Sept. 2-Oct. 15
Antelope archery.....	Sept. 2-Oct. 7
Black bear (Spring).....	April 15-May 31
Black bear (Fall)	Sept. 15-Nov. 26
Mountain Lion (Fall)	Oct. 23-Nov. 26
Mountain Lion (Winter).....	Dec. 1-Apr. 14, 2007

Upland Game Bird & Falconry Seasons, 2006 (Tentative)

Sage Grouse.....	Sept. 1-Nov. 1
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Sept. 1-Jan. 1
Mountain Grouse	Sept. 1-Dec. 15
Partridge	Sept. 1-Jan. 1
Ring-Necked Pheasant.....	Oct. 7-Jan. 1
Merriam's Wild Turkey.....	Spring...April 8-May 21
Merriam's Wild Turkey	Fall...Sept. 1-Jan. 1
(Some areas by permit only. Check regulations)	

Falconry Season:

Falconry Upland Game Birds (except turkey)	TBA*
Falconry Mourning Doves	TBA*

*TBA—These season dates are determined by federal season dates which are not available at press time. Please contact the FWP offices listed on page 3.

Blue Means "State Lands"

The conservation license fee paid by hunters and anglers includes access to all legally accessible state lands. Hiking, bird watching, etc. require a \$10 state lands use permit.

Violations Hotline

Regulations violators are as unpopular in Montana as locusts on ripe wheat.

TIP-MONT is the FWP toll-free hotline to report violations. The program is sportsman-financed.

Over 1,000 tips were called in last year involving illegally killed fish and wildlife, wasted game, driving in a closed area on national forest land, parks vandalism, and Montana residency violations. Callers may remain anonymous and do not have to testify in court. The 24-hour toll-free hotline number is 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668).

Alert: Hunters may not use cell phones or two-way radios in pursuit of game or to avoid game-check stations.

Fishing

Maybe you are a fly fisherman who knows every caddis and streamer. Or perhaps you prefer lures, or maybe live bait. And then again, maybe you have never fished before in your life.

No matter what your category, plan on fishing in Montana's Custer Country Region. Bring your own rod and tackle box, or let one of the abundant sporting goods shops outfit you.

Any fisherman has heard the fame of the Yellowstone and Bighorn Rivers. The Tongue River Reservoir spawns walleye beauties, and Bighorn Canyon offers miles of fishing between its colorful canyon walls. There are numerous other rivers, streams, reservoirs and ponds throughout the area abundant with fish.

Variety: Variety is the name of the fishing game here.

Nowhere else can you catch cutthroat (Montana's native), rainbow, brown, and brook trout; kokanee and coho salmon; walleye; sauger; whitefish; bass; catfish; ling; sturgeon; and the prehistoric paddlefish ... all in one region.

Licenses and Regulations:

The license year runs from March 1 to the end of February the next year.

The season is the third Saturday in May-Nov. 30 on fishing rivers and streams. Lakes, reservoirs and large rivers are open year round, unless otherwise specified. For complete information on regulations, limits, seasons, baits, etc., write to the Montana FWP offices listed on page 128 of this guide.

Resident fishing licenses are \$18.00 (\$8 age 15-17) plus an \$8 conservation license. Residents 12-14 and over 62 need only a conservation license to fish. All nonresidents, 15 years and older will need a \$10 conservation



Bighorn River flycasting. Mike McCleary Photo

license and a Montana fishing license. A nonresident of any age may purchase a nonresident fishing license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish. A nonresident two-day fishing license costs \$15, a 10-day license \$43.50. A season license is \$60. Age 1-14 may fish without a license if accompanied by an adult with a valid Montana license, keeping a combined limit of fish for one angler.

All anglers (except residents under age 15 and over 62, and disabled anglers) must possess a \$5 warm water fish license to possess warm water game fish caught on designated waters. Funds from the license are earmarked to fund a new multi-species fish hatchery near Fort Peck Dam. Waters requiring the stamp are listed in the FWP Fishing Regulations booklet. All anglers must provide their Social Security numbers to buy a license.

If you go paddlefish fishing, in addi-

tion to your fishing license, you will need to purchase a paddlefish tag. These are \$6.50 each for residents and \$15 each for nonresidents. Anglers are limited to a maximum of one paddlefish on the Yellowstone River, two on the Missouri River.

Some for the State Record Books

Danny Spence offered a live minnow to a 16.63 lb. walleye in 2000 at Fort Peck Reservoir and boated the monster and the biggest fish title. Steve McMorris's 16.38 lb. Cooney Dam catch had held the walleye record since 1996. James Hyer owns the longest-standing record in Montana's files for a 25.63 lb. Dolly Varden caught in 1916.

Anglers posted six new records in 2001, and one each year in 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Custer Country's Record Fish

Following are the record fish caught

in the Custer Country tourism region of the state: black crappie, 3 lb. 2 oz., by Al Elser, 1973, Tongue River Reservoir; blue sucker, 11.46 lb., Doug Askin, 1989, Yellowstone River near Miles City; channel catfish, 27.17 lb., Ed Ellertson, 1998, Castle Rock Lake; green sunfish 0.56 lb., Roger Fliger, 1991, Castle Rock Reservoir; northern pike, 37 lb. 8 oz., Lance Moyer, 1972, Tongue River Reservoir; paddlefish, 142 lb. 8 oz, Larry Branstetter, 1973, Missouri River; rock bass, .57 lb., Don Holzheimer, 1989, Tongue River Reservoir; shovelnose sturgeon, 13.72 lb., Sidney L. Storm, 1986, Missouri River; pallid sturgeon, 60 lb., Gene Sattler, 1979, Yellowstone River; white crappie, 3.68 lb., Gene Bassett, 1996, Tongue River; yellow bullhead, .93 lb., Carl Radonski, 1998, Tongue River Reservoir.

For Montana's record fish of all species, visit the website fwp.mt.gov.

Access Abounds

Fishing access sites managed by FWP are noted on the map on page 4. Facilities at each vary somewhat. Some are furnished with restrooms and most have camping and picnicking facilities.

Boat ramps are available at many locations. A fishing pond booklet for southeastern Montana, to help anglers find good farm and ranch ponds, is available at the two FWP offices in Custer Country listed on page 3.

The Montana Stream Access Law states that rivers and streams capable of recreational use may be used by the public up to the ordinary high water marks. To pursue water-based recreational activities within the high water marks of rivers and streams (except rifle hunting), to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams, recreationists must ask permission.

Also, sections 16 and 36 within each township of the state are designated as "State Land." A Recreational Use License is required to cross or use any state lands.

Boating Safety

One of the most important requirements for any watercraft is a life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD) — one for each person on board plus at least one throwable device on a boat 16 feet or longer. Children under the age of 12 are required to wear (securely fastened to the body) a life jacket at all times while a craft less than 26 feet

in length is in motion. Anyone operating a jet ski or wave runner must wear a PFD and comply with all motorboat regulations.

For the protection of boaters, Montana requires safety equipment: fire extinguisher, flame arrester, ventilation system, sound-producing device, personal flotation device, and lights at night.

Boats on Montana waters must be registered. Properly registered boats from other states, which will not be in Montana for more than 90 consecutive days, are exempt from registration and taxation. A boat is registered at the Treasurer's Office in the county of principal use after 90 days. A \$15.50 registration fee is charged. All motorboats regardless of length, jet skis and other personal water craft, and sailboats 12 feet or longer, must be regis-



Enjoy boating on Montana's waters. Sara Budge Photo

tered and display decals.

Boaters must observe a no-wake speed law near swimmers and anchored boats.

Young people, 13 and 14 years old, must possess a Montana motorboat operator's certificate when an adult is not on board, to operate a motorboat, or other watercraft with a motor of greater than 10 horsepower. A home-study course, test, work booklet and registration card for the certificate are available from FWP, 1420 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620, or call (406) 444-2615.



Courtesy BLM Miles City Field Office — Public Affairs

Yellowstone River Floaters Guides

Four Yellowstone River Floater's Guides are available to the public for \$4 each at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Miles City Field Office, the BLM State Offices in Billings, and various retail outlets. See page 128.

The guides emphasize the return trip of the Lewis and Clark expedition down the Yellowstone River. Each guide covers approximately 80 miles of river, shows federal, state and pri-

vate land ownership, gives GPS coordinates for hazard locations and is printed on high-quality waterproof paper. The guides also give historical anecdotes for key locations and provide safety and etiquette guidance.

The guides detail the Yellowstone from Springdale to Park City, from Park City to Pompeys Pillar and the Captain Clark Fishing Access, from Captain Clark Fishing Access to Forsyth, and from Forsyth to Bonfield.

Montana Travel & Recreation Sources

Montana is a big state - fourth largest of the fifty. Besides Custer Country, there are five other tourism regions in the state. Each region surrounds a major attraction and has a similar publication that spotlights sites and attractions. Contact information for each of the regions is listed here.

Custer Country Offices

To contact the Custer Country offices, write: Custer Country, P.O. Box 904, Forsyth, MT 59327-0904. 1-800-346-1876.

custer.visitmt.com

Statewide Information

For a free statewide vacation-planning packet, write to Travel Montana, P.O. Box 200533, Helena, MT 59620-0533, or call toll free 1-800-VISIT-MT (800-847-4868). You will receive a Vacation Guide that includes a highway map, a Travel Planner with a comprehensive listing of all types of accommodations, and a Calendar of Events. (visitmt.com). Montana Chamber of Commerce: Box 1730, Helena, MT, 59624 (406) 442-2405.

Other Tourism Regions

• **Glacier Country**, P.O. Box 1035, Bigfork, MT 59911-1035 (406) 837-6211, 1-800-338-5072, fax (406) 837-6231, glaciercountry@montana.com glacier.visitmt.com

• **Gold West Country**, 1105 Main, Deer Lodge, MT 59722 (406) 846-1943 or 1-800-879-1159, goldwest@visitmt.com goldwest.visitmt.com
 • **Missouri River Country**, P.O. Box 387, Wolf Point, MT 59201 (406) 653-1319, 1-800-653-1319, 2mtmrc@nemontel.net missouririver.visitmt.com
 • **Russell Country**, P.O. Box 3166, Great Falls, MT 59403-3166 (406) 761-5036 or 1-800-527-5348, russell@visitmt.com russell.visitmt.com
 • **Yellowstone Country**, 1822 West Lincoln, Bozeman, MT 59715, 1-800-736-5276, (406) 556-8680, yellowstone@montana.net yellowstone.visitmt.com

Agency Information

• **Bureau of Land Management**
 Montana State Office
 Box 36800
 Billings, MT 59107, (406) 896-5000
 Miles City Field Office
 111 Garryowen Road
 Miles City, MT 59301
 (406) 233-2800
 • **Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks**
 • FWP Region 7 Office
 P.O. Box 1630
 Miles City, MT 59301, (406) 234-0900

• FWP Region 5 Office
 2300 Lake Elmo Drive
 Billings, MT 59105 (406) 247-2940
 24 Hour Information, (406) 247-2970
 fwp.mt.gov
 • **Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge**
 P.O. Box 110
 333 Airport Road
 Lewistown, MT 59457, (406) 538-8706
Custer National Forest
 • Custer National Forest
 Supervisor's Office
 1310 Main Street
 Billings, MT 59105, (406) 657-6200
 • **Montana Dept. of Transportation**
Road and Construction Reports
 Dial 511
 24-Hour Voice Response Real Time
 mdt.state.mt.us



Sources for Community Visitor Information

Baker P.O. Box 849, 59313
 1-866-862-2537
 bakermt.com

Billings P.O. Box 31177, 59107
 (406) 245-4111
 Visitor Center 252-4016, 800-735-2635
 itsinbillings.com

Broadus P.O. Box 484, 59317
 (406) 436-2778,
State Visitor Center, Wireless Int.
 P.O. Box 406, Highway 212 East
 436-2992

Crow Tribal Council
 Crow Agency, MT 59022
 (406) 638-3700 Fax: (406) 638-3881
 Tourism Office, Visitor's Center:
 406-638-7272 Fax: (406) 638-3157
 crownations.net

Colstrip P.O. Box 430, 59323
 (406) 748-4822 748-2840

Ekalaka P.O. Box 108, 59324
 (406) 775-6358 or 775-6321

Forsyth P.O. Box 448, 59327
 1-877-4SYTHMT (479-8468) 347-5656
 forsythchamber@yahoo.com

Glendive 313 So. Merrill, 59330
 (406) 377-5601

glendivechamber.com
 chamber@midrivers.com

Hardin 10 E. Railway St.
 P.O. Box 446, 59034
 (406) 665-1672

hardinchamber@bhwi.net
 custerslaststand.org
State Visitor Center at Big Horn
 County Historical Museum
 Wireless Internet
 Rt. 1 Box 1206A I-90 Exit 497
 (406) 665-1671

Hysham P.O. Box 63, 59038
 Phone (406) 342-5457
 hysham.com

Laurel 108 East Main, 59044
 (406) 628-8105 Fax 628-8105
 laurelmontana.org

Lame Deer P.O. Box 991,
 Lame Deer, 59043
 (406) 477-6284

Miles City 511 Pleasant St., 59301
 (406) 234-2890
 milescitymt.org

Musselshell Valley (Roundup)
 P.O. Box 751, 59072
 Phone (406) 323-1966
 midrivers.com/~roundupc

Northern Cheyenne Reservation
 P.O. Box 128, Lame Deer, MT 59043
 406-477-6284
 ncheyenne.net

Terry P.O. Box 667, 59349
 (406) 635-5782
 pcchamber@midrivers.com
Wibaux P.O. Box 159, 59353
 (406) 796-2412

State Visitor Center, Wireless Int.
 I-94 Exit 242
 (406) 796-2253

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See Pages 60-61 Inside

www.stores.ebay.com/custerbattlefieldmuseum

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